

University of Colorado Boulder

**Econ 8535 – Environmental Economics I
Fall 2017**

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Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00-10:15 Econ 5

Office hours: Monday 1:00-2:30, Tuesday 2:00-3:30

Course Description: This course provides a Ph.D. level survey of environmental economics. We will examine the literature and methods used in analyzing environmental and related resource economics problems from an economic perspective. As this is the first course in a two course sequence, the focus will be primarily on theoretical concepts and a broad overview of key ideas, with empirical methods covered in the second course.

Course Organization: This course will be a mix of lecture and discussion. There will be six major units, and you will be expected to write four 8-10 page papers on units of your choice. For one of the units that you choose to write on, you will be required to lead discussion for one class. The paper and presentation are discussed in more detail below.

Textbooks: There are no required textbooks, but there are two “standards” in environmental and resource economics that are worth acquiring

Environmental: William J. Baumol and Wallace E. Oates, *The Theory of Environmental Policy*, 2nd edition (Cambridge University Press, 1988).

Resource: Jon M. Conrad and Colin W. Clark,
Cambridge University Press, 1987.

In addition, Robert N. Stavins, *Economics of the Environment: Selected Readings*, 6th Ed, 2012, is an excellent collection of important articles in environmental economics.

For a more intuitive treatment of many of the topics we’ll discuss, you should also consider: Nick Hanley, Jason F. Shogren, and Ben White; *Environmental Economics: In Theory and Practice*, 2nd Ed, 2007

The reading list, drawn primarily from academic journals, will be provided in a separate document. Readings should be available electronically. Students are expected to have read all materials prior to class, and should be prepared to discuss and answer questions regarding the readings.

Grading:

Papers and Presentation	60%
Assignments	20%
Class Participation	20%

Papers and Presentation: You will be required to write four papers, each roughly 8-10 pages in length.

- V. Resource Economics (Week 11-12)
 - A. Non-renewable Resources
 - B. Renewable Resources
 - C. Property Rights and Institutions

- VI. Additional Topics (Week 13-15)
 - A. Waste and recycling
 - B. Uncertainty, dynamics and discounting
 - C. Transboundary pollution and international agreements

Important Stuff

1) If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website (www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical

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5) All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.