

Economics of Natural Resources
and Environment
Economics 4440
Classroom: Chemistry 352
Fall 2012

Web: <http://www.econ.unt.edu/~nieswiadomy>
<https://learn.unt.edu>

Dr. Michael Nieswiadomy
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REQUIRED TEXTS: Main text: *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, 8th ed., by Thomas Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis. Addison Wesley 2009
(The 9th edition is now available. You can choose either the 8th or 9th edition.
The 8th edition will be cheaper.)

Supplemental text: *Economics of the Environment: Selected Readings*, 5th ed., by Robert N. Stavins, published by W.W. Norton, 2005 (The 6th edition is now available. You can choose either the 5th or 5th edition. The 5th edition will be cheaper.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Recently a significant number of environmental problems have received considerable attention from the press: Acid rain, the green house effect, the deterioration of the ozone layer, groundwater pollution, habitat loss and over-harvesting of fish. These problems have convinced many people that mankind is incapable of living in harmony with the environment. We shall use as our organizing principle of the course the following questions: Can our economic and political institutions produce a sustainable growth path in the presence of a finite environment? What are the benefits and costs of our actions? What are the most efficient solutions to our problems?

GRADES: Your grade will be based on the following weights:

Exam 1	25% of your overall grade
Exam 2	25% of your overall grade
Final Exam	30% of your overall grade
Homeworks & quizzes	20% of your overall grade

Homeworks will be posted on my website. A list of handouts given out will also be listed. Some links to handouts will listed sometimes.

I will use Blackboard to email you. I will also post your scores from homeworks, quizzes, tests and papers on Blackboard. Be sure to check emails from me a few times each week.

The grading scale is:

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: below 60%.

ABSENCE POLICY:

Attendance Policy

Attendance at **every** class meeting is essential to understanding the material. Unless you are an exceptionally gifted student, your grade will be positively related to the number of times you attend class. To encourage your attendance, I will give pop quizzes. These pop quizzes will determine if you know the general topics that will be lectured on that day. A few pop quizzes will be dropped. If you miss a quiz you will receive a zero and most likely it will be dropped unless you miss a significantly large number. It is to your advantage to take all of the quizzes so that you will be able to drop your lowest scores.

Also, please note that in accordance with university policy I will give students a WF for non-attendance on Oct. 10, 2012. This applies only to students who have missed 50% or more of the scheduled classes.

If a student misses an exam without a university excuse, the student will receive a grade of zero. To the extent possible, please inform me in advance if you must miss an exam.

Pagers and Cell Phones

If you feel compelled to carry a pager or a cell phone with you to class, please turn it off or put on “vibrate” mode. I will grant you the same courtesy. It is disrespectful for any student’s phone or pager to ring during class. Please be courteous.

COURSE OUTLINE

DATES	CHAPTERS		SUBJECT
	Tietenberg & Lewis	Stavins	
Aug 29			Fall Semester begins at UNT
Sept 3			Labor Day -- No Class!
Sept 10	1		Visions of the Future
		(1)	Fullerton, Don and Robert Stavins. How Economists See the Environment. <i>Nature</i> , Volume 395, pp. 433-434, Oct. 1, 1998.
	2		Valuing the Environment: Concepts
		(2)	The Tragedy of the Commons, Garrett Hardin
Sept 17-24	3		Valuing the Environment: Methods
Sept 17-24		(7)	Portney, Paul R. The Contingent Valuation Debate: Why Economists Should Care. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 8(1994):3-17
		(8)	Hanemann, W. Michael. A Valuing the Environment through Contingent Valuation. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 8 (1994):19-43
		(9)	Diamond, Peter A. and Jerry A. Hausman. Contingent Valuation: Is Some Number Better than No Number? <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 8 (1994):45-64
	4		Property Rights, Externalities, and Environmental Problems
Oct. 1	5		Dynamic Efficiency & Sustainable Development
		(20)	Confronting the Environmental Kuznets Curve, Dasgupta et al.
	6		The Population Problem

Oct. 8	Exam 1	
Oct. 8 (after exam)	7	The Allocation of Depletable and Renewable Resources: An Overview
Oct. 9	Last drop day for "W" if not passing	
Oct. 15	8	Energy: Transition from Depletable to Renewable Resources
Oct. 15	9	Recyclable Resources: Minerals, Paper, Bottles & E-Waste
Oct. 22	10	Replenishable but Depletable Resources: Water
Oct. 29	11	Land
	12	Reproducible Private-Property Resources: Agriculture
Nov. 5	Exam 2	
Nov. 5 (after exam)	13	Forests & Biodiversity
Nov. 7	Last day to drop	
Nov. 12	(28)	Conflicts & Choices in Biodiversity: Metrick & Weitzman
	14	Preservation; Fisheries
Nov. 19	15	Economics of Pollution Control
	(4)	Environmental Regulation and Competitiveness of U.S. Manufacturing: Jaffe et al.
	(5)	Toward a New Conception of the Environment-Competitiveness Relationship: Porter & van der Linde
	16	Stationary-Source Local Air Pollution
	(17)	What Can We Learn from the Grand Policy Experiment? Lesson from SO ₂ Allowance Trading
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Holiday, No Classes	
Nov. 22-25	University closed	
Nov. 26	17	Regional and Global Air Pollutant: Acid Rain and Atmospheric Modification
	(22)	Reflections on the Economics of Climate Change
Dec. 3	18	Mobile-Source Air Pollution
	19	Water Pollution
Dec. 10	Final Exam 6:30 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.	

Disability Accommodation

If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please discuss your needs with me after class or at office hours.

The Economics Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have not registered with ODA, we encourage you to do so. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the 4th class day.

Cheating and Plagiarism

The Economics department of the University of North Texas adheres to the University's Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. To view this policy go to www.vpaa.unt.edu.