

August 1, 2010

Economics of Natural Resources
and Environment
Economics 4440
Classroom: Chemistry 352
Fall 2010
Web: <http://www.econ.unt.edu/~nieswiadomy>

Dr. Michael Nieswiadomy
Office Hrs: M 4pm-6pm; TTh 1-3pm & by appt.
Office: 254B Hickory Hall
Class time: Tues & Thurs. 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.
Phone: 940-565-2244; Fax: 940-565-4426
email: miken@unt.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*,
8th ed., by Thomas Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis. Addison Wesley 2009.

Supplemental Text: *Economics of the Environment: Selected Readings*, 5th ed., by Robert N.
Stavins, published by W.W. Norton, 2005.

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. 6, 2010. 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 | Stavins | |
| Aug 30 | 1 | (1) | Visions of the Future; How Economists See the Environment |
| | 2 | | Valuing the Environment: Concepts |
| Sept 6 | | | Labor Day -- No Class! |
| Sept 13 | 3 | (7-10) | Valuing the Environment: Methods; Contingent Valuation |
| Sept 20 | 4 | (2) | Property Rights, Externalities & Environmental Problems; Tragedy of the Commons |
| | 5 | | Dynamic Efficiency & Sustainable Development |
| Sept. 27 | 6 | (20) | The Population Problem; Environmental Kuznets Curve |
| Oct. 4 | Exam 1 | | |
| Oct. 4 (after exam) | 7 | | The Allocation of Depletable & Renewable Resources |
| Oct. 5 Last drop day for "W" if not passing | | | |
| Oct. 11 | 8 | | Energy: Transition from Depletable to Renewable Resources |
| Oct. 11 | 9 | | Recyclable Resources: Minerals, Paper, Bottles & E-Waste |
| Oct. 18 | 10 | | Replenishable but Depletable Resources: Water |
| Oct. 25 | Exam 2 | | |
| Oct. 25 (after exam) | 11& 12 | | Land; Reproducible Private-Property Resources: Agriculture |
| Oct. 29 Last day to drop | | | |

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|---------|----------------------------------|-------|---|
| Nov. 1 | 12&13 | (28) | Forests & Biodiversity; Conflicts & Choices in Biodiversity Preservation |
| Nov. 8 | 14 | | Fisheries |
| Nov. 8 | 15 | (4&5) | Economics of Pollution Control; Environmental Regulation and Competitiveness of U.S. Manufacturing; Toward a New Conception of the Environment-Competitiveness Relationship |
| Nov. 15 | 15 continued | | |
| Nov. 22 | 16 | (17) | Control of Stationary-Source Local Air Pollution; What Can We Learn from the Grand Policy Experiment? Lesson from SO ₂ Allowance Trading |
| Nov. 22 | 17 | (22) | Regional and Global Air Pollutants: Acid Rain & Atmospheric Modification; Reflections on the Economics of Climate Change |
| Nov. 29 | 18 | | Mobile-Source Air Pollution |
| | 19 | | Water Pollution |
| Dec. 6 | 20 | | Toxic Substances |
| | (30) | | Environmental Policy Since Earth Day I |
| Dec. 13 | 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.