ECOE 70312: Environmental Economics II

Spring 2011

Office: 435/713 Flanner
Office Hours: Wednesday, or by appointment.

Course Description and Objectives:
This course provides an in-depth introduction to some of the topics and techniques of environmental economics: the economics of renewable, non-renewable, and common property natural resources; pollution abatement policies; welfare theory and evaluation; stated and revealed preference methods of valuing environmental goods; and international issues such as the pollution haven hypothesis, global warming, and transboundary pollution.

This course has one primary objective: to provide you with a working knowledge of some of the research topics in environmental economics that is sufficient to allow you not only to read current research on these topics, as published in leading journals of the discipline, but also to contribute to these journals.

Course Requirements:
1. 75% of your grade will be determined by 5 problem sets.
   a. I will distribute them at least two weeks ahead of the due date. Any problem set turned in after the due date will be graded, but will receive a maximum of only one-half credit. I am willing to allow an extension of the due date if there is a good reason to do so.
   b. I encourage you to coordinate your work on the problem sets. That is, it is perfectly acceptable to discuss your efforts and answers with your classmates. The problem sets can be complex, so comparing your results with others is a good way to check for computational and/or algebraic errors. In fact, if you like, any combination of you can form a "team" and turn in one problem set with several names on it (in which case all team members receive the same grade on that problem set).
2. 25% of your grade will be determined by your choice of the following options.
   a. Take a final exam.
   b. Write a paper that develops a (theoretical or empirical) model and outlines how to analyze it to derive some results of interest to environmental economists. This would probably need to be about 10 to 15 pages (double-spaced). If you decide to do this, you will need to get the topic approved by me. This is an option you would generally take only if you were thinking of a second-year paper or dissertation in this area.
   c. Present a published paper on one of the topics relevant to the course.
Approximate Course Outline:
(I say approximate because the pace depends on how quickly we cover material.)

I. Natural and Common-Property Resources
A. Oldies but Goodies
B. Current Work

II. Pollution and Pollution Abatement

III. Valuing the Environment


IV. International Environmental Issues


