

AAEC 4650
Environmental Economics
Syllabus for Spring Semester, 2007

Welcome to AAEC 4650, Environmental Economics. This website is designed to help you keep track of course materials and scheduling. Materials will be added throughout the semester, so check back regularly.

General Course Information

Instructor: Jack E. Houston

Phone: (706) 542-0755

Office: 312-D Conner Hall

email: jhouston@agecon.uga.edu

Class Time: 9:30-10:45 TT

Location: 210 Conner Hall

Office Hours: TT 11:00-12:00 a.m. or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Many contemporary environmental problems share a strong economic component: environmental damage is a result of the production and consumption of goods and services. The purpose of this course is to apply economic analysis to the study of environmental problems and policies/solutions. In the process, students will become familiar with the basic structure of environmental policy and regulation in the United States. Individual and group projects will help students develop research and analytical skills relevant to resolving environmental issues.

Required Text

Field, Barry C. and Martha K. Field, *Environmental Economics: An Introduction*, 4th edition, Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill Irwin (2006).

Course Format and Expectations

This course will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format. Class sessions will emphasize the development and illustration of concepts, issues, and economic analysis techniques. Class sessions will follow topics in the textbook fairly closely, but will often cover additional material not in the book. Supplementary readings will occasionally be provided and assigned via WebCT.

Assignments

Group discussion projects – Students will work in groups to prepare responses to discussion questions and will provide written answers to those questions.

Web-based research project – each individual will prepare a description of the problems, and an analysis of proposed solutions to the problems, of surface water quality in a selected Southeastern U.S. watershed, primarily based on world wide web resources.

One policy memo on an assigned topic

Applied Research Option –

Choose one:

- a) an individual research paper of 10-12 pages on an assigned topic
- b) participation in a group research project on a specific environmental policy issue

Students are also encouraged to take advantage of office hours for detailed, individual concerns. Students are expected to take control of the effort required for this course and to be responsible for the consequences of their work. Attainment of course objectives is usually highly dependent on both class attendance and completion of readings. Students are encouraged and expected to utilize available resources (e.g., textbook, lectures, supplemental readings, library materials, each other, and the instructor) to achieve course objectives at the desired performance level.

Testing and Grading

One class period examination and one final examination will be given. Exam questions will be based primarily on lectures and the textbook. Students will also be graded on class participation and assignments. The final grade will be based on the percentage of the possible points which the student has earned. No make-up exams will be given unless the instructor gives prior permission for missing an exam for a documented university-accepted excuse (If you are sick or have a family emergency, call/email or have someone else call/email).

The following weighting will be used for the final grade:

Mid-term Exam	25%
Policy memo and homeworks	10%
Web Research project	10%
Group Discussions	10%
Group Project/Applied Research project or paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

Communication

All students will be required to have e-mail accounts and world-wide web access. Access will be made available on the Agricultural and Applied Economics computer network. Course materials are available on WebCT (webct.uga.edu).