

ECON 7251 – Advanced Environmental Economics

Class timing and location: M,W 11:50am - 1:10pm, OSH 130

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Office: OSH 339B

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

The objective of this class is to analyze the economics of environmental issues. We will discuss the causes of environmental problems and the strengths and limitations of the plausible solutions in form of various kinds of ‘property rights’. These have applications for various aspects of our natural environment like air, water, land, forests, fisheries, wildlife etc. We will also discuss the relationship between environment and different aspects of economic development, which can provide us the perspective about how the institutions governing the natural resource use and/or conservation serve/hinder the objective of sustainable development, which is the prime concern in today’s world.

You will be assigned to read and prepare short summaries of the major arguments in the papers on a given topic ahead of each class, so that you can engage in and lead a critical discussion of the topic in the class. The relevant journal articles or book chapters will be made available to you through ‘canvas’. You will also write a team or individual research paper, which involves theoretical &/or empirical examination of a local, national or international environmental issue.

Course grade criterion: $A \geq 95\%$, $95\% > A- \geq 90\%$, $90\% > B+ \geq 87\%$, $87\% > B \geq 83\%$, $83\% > B- \geq 80\%$, $80\% > C+ \geq 77\%$, $77\% > C \geq 73\%$, $73\% > C- \geq 70\%$, $70\% > D+ \geq 65\%$, $65\% > C \geq 60\%$, $60\% > C- \geq 50\%$, $50\% > E$

Composition of grade: Your summary reports and in-class discussions will carry 50% weight, research paper will carry 50% weight.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness - www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776.

Topics

1. Externalities and Market Failure

2. Property Rights

Open Access

Common Property Rights

Private Property Rights

Administrative Regulation

3. Applications of Property Rights

Land and Forests

Air

Water

Fisheries

Wildlife

4. Development and Environment

Trade

Energy

Population Growth

Poverty

Environmental Agreements

References will be made available on canvas.