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**Office Hours:** TBA  
(and by appointment)

**Economics for Natural Resources and the Environment (ENST 387)**  
**Location:** WPH 207  
**9:00-9:50am MWF**  
**Spring 2016, 4 units**

**Course overview:** This class will introduce students to the basic precepts of environmental and resource economics, with an eye toward the increasing influence of resource economics policy responses to environmental problems. The theoretical basis is then applied to such aspects as traditional and “green” energy, the energy-water nexus, air quality, and environmental management, with an emphasis on resource sustainability and conservation. This course is built both on lectures and on student discussion and debate. Students are expected to study the required text assignment before lectures. Students will be also asked to prepare short presentations on major issues discussed in the course.

**Readings:**

   The textbook has useful resources online: self-assessment quizzes, web-links (helpful for your papers)

2. Other readings will be posted on the Blackboard.

**Course learning outcomes:**

1. Be able to use critically the many sources of information about environmental policies to solve empirical problems.
2. Be able to use theoretical perspectives to identify and explain domestic and global environmental problems and the linkages among them.
3. Demonstrate the habit of accessing sources of environmental knowledge and the skill to critically interpret, assess and apply evidence.

**Research paper:** In addition to midterm and final exams, another requirement is an original research paper of **minimum 9 pages** (including bibliography, double-spaced). This will be on a topic of the student’s choice, refined in collaboration with the instructor and reflecting the student’s research interests. Please use a 12-point font; 1-inch margins; double-spaced. Required number of sources: **15 per paper.** The instructor will provide additional guidelines on the required diversity of sources. Each student will present his/her major research points in class. When you submit the paper, please give a hard copy to the instructor AND upload the paper on the Blackboard in “Assignments.”
Grading
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 25%
Research Paper 25%
Attendance/participation 10%
Short quizzes/Homework/Presentations in class 20%

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems
A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.
Grading and Correction of Grades
Excerpts for this section have been taken from the University Grading Handbook, located at http://www.usc.edu/dept/ARR/grades/gradinghandbook/index.html. Please see the link for more details on this and any other grading concerns.

A grade of Missing Grade (MG) “should only be assigned in unique or unusual situations... for those cases in which a student does not complete work for the course before the semester ends. All missing grades must be resolved by the instructor through the Correction of Grade Process. One calendar year is allowed to resolve a MG. If an MG is not resolved [within] one year the grade is changed to [Unofficial Withdrawal] UW and will be calculated into the grade point average a zero grade points.

A grade of Incomplete (IN) “is assigned when work is not completed because of documented illness or other ‘emergency’ occurring after the twelfth week of the semester (or 12th week equivalency for any course scheduled for less than 15 weeks).”

Course Schedule:

Week 1
Introduction. Course Objectives and Structure.

Tools of Economics: Concepts
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 1 and 2 (pp. 15-23)

Week 2
Tools of Economics: Concepts
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 2 (pp. 24-33)


Week 3
Tools of Economics: Concepts (continued)
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 3 (pp. 34-45)

Week 4

Environmental Methods
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 3 (pp. 44-63)

Week 5

Environmental Methods (continued)
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 4

Week 6

MIDTERM EXAM

Property Rights and Environmental Problems
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 4

Week 7

Sustainable Development.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 5


Cart, J. (2014, Mar 02). Ballet of mirrors and sunlight; new Ivanpah facility may be the last of its kind to be built in the U.S. Los Angeles Times Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com/docview/1503372692?accountid=14749

The Population Problem
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 6

Week 8

Carbon Offsets and Cap-and-Trade.
“Putting a Price on Carbon: An Emissions Cap or a Tax?” Yale Environment 360, e360.yale.edu/feature/putting_a_price_on_carbon_an_emissions_cap_or_a_tax/2148
Natural Resource Economics.

Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 7 and 16

Nuclear Energy: Economic and Environmental Aspects
Guruswami, L. International Environmental Law in a Nutshell, pp. 618-635

Energy-Water Nexus
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 8

Water
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 9

Week 9

Land
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 10
Ann Raimes and Maria Jerskey, Universal Keys for Writers, 2009, pp. 740-765

Week 10

Agriculture
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 11

Week 11

Forest Habitat. Fisheries
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 12
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 13

Environmental Economics: An Overview.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 14
Week 12

Air Pollution.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 15

Water Pollution.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 18

Week 13

Transportation.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 17

Managing Waste.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 19

Poverty and Development.
Tietenberg & Lewis, Chapter 20, 21

Paper presentations.

Week 14

Paper presentations. Draft of the Research Paper to Be Completed

Week 15

Paper presentations (continued)


FINAL EXAM: TBA