

ENV/ECN 107: Environmental Economics and Policy

Syllabus

- Instructor:** Chiao Su
- Email:** cheng.su@sjsu.edu
- Office Hours:** WSQ 115B, Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM (or by appointment)
- Units:** 3
- Location:** Section 1 - Boccardo Business Center 205
Section 2 - Hugh Gillis Hall 116
- Class Schedule:** Section 1 - Tuesday and Thursday 9:00AM to 10:15AM
Section 2 – Tuesday and Thursday 12:00PM to 1:15AM
- Prerequisite:** ECON 1B or Instructor Consent
- Textbook:** *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: A Contemporary Approach (4th Edition)*, by Harris, J.M. and B. Roach
- Material:** Scientific or Graphing Calculator
A computer with Excel
- Canvas:** All coursework, lectures, assignments and additional readings will be published on the Canvas Learning Management System at - <http://sjsu.instructure.com>
Important! It is your responsibility to checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any course updates.

Course Description

Analysis of basic economic and political factors related to the environmental crisis. Surveys policy approaches to the problem: regulation, taxes, subsidies, benefit-cost analysis.

Throughout the course we will review basic economic concepts and examine the way environmental and ecological economists use and adapt neoclassical economic tools to develop environmental policy and address environmental issues. Topics include property rights and externalities, valuation, natural resource consumption (nonrenewable and renewable), pollution, and sustainable development.

The goal of this course is to introduce students to environmental and ecological economics, and provide a firm understanding of how these disciplines can be applied to address environmental issues. We will examine the economic underpinnings of environmental problems by exploring case studies on various topics. We will review, extend, criticize, and develop the basic economic tools that all students of environmental policy must understand.

Course Learning Objectives

In this course we will explore political and economic aspects of pollution, renewable and non-renewable resource consumption. Students will learn to formulate conclusions by applying the basic concepts and tools from environmental economics and develop an understanding of how such conclusions can be used to guide environmental policy.

Throughout the semester, we will also work on learning basic functions of Excel (or whatever your preferred spreadsheet software is). A basic and applied understanding of spreadsheet software will be valuable for this course, as well as for the future

Course Requirements and Assignments

This is a participation-intensive course that relies on your consistent and active engagement. In case of an emergency, please do everything in your power to contact me prior to missing class or assignments.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Assignments include reading for class, homework assignments, preparation for exams, and occasional pre-class quizzes. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 5-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

Grading:	Homework:	25%
	Group Project:	15%
	Midterm:	25%
	Final:	35%

Grading Scale:	100% ~ 92.5%	A	76.4% ~ 72.5%	C
	92.4% ~ 89.5%	A-	72.4% ~ 69.5%	C-
	89.4% ~ 86.5%	B+	69.4% ~ 66.5%	D+
	86.4% ~ 82.5%	B	66.4% ~ 62.5%	D
	82.4% ~ 79.5%	B-	62.4% ~ 59.5%	D-
	79.4% ~ 76.5%	C+	59.4% ~ 0%	F

Homework: There will be a series of homework assignments throughout the semester that you will complete and submit on Canvas. You are responsible for accessing Canvas and completing assignments by the due date.

I will drop the lowest score from your total. No late assignment will be accepted unless in cases of extreme medical or family emergency

Group Project: There will be a group project you will work on through the semester and present it to the class during the last two days of class meeting. Further details to come.

Midterm: Thursday, March 21st (Tentative)
The midterm will assess your understanding of the course material, including readings, homework assignments, and lectures

Final: Section 1 - Friday, May 17th at 7:15AM to 9:30AM
Section 2 - Monday, May 20th at 9:45AM to 12:00PM
The final exam will be cumulative, but will focus heavily on the second half of the class

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to attend all lectures and arrive to class on time. Participation in classroom discussions is an important component of the course, and so students are expected to have completed the required reading for each lecture prior to class meetings. Laptop use during lecture is acceptable, however, use of cellphones is discouraged. Use of electronic devices may be prohibited if usage becomes disruptive.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>