

**ECON 335**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS**

**FALL 2013**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:30pm – 2:20pm

Room Assignment: Planetary Hall 224

Instructor: David Chandler Thomas  
Office and Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri, Enterprise Hall Room 338 - Noon – 1:15pm  
Email and Phone: [dthoma20@gmu.edu](mailto:dthoma20@gmu.edu) 571-354-7020  
Website: [http://works.bepress.com/david\\_thomas1](http://works.bepress.com/david_thomas1)

**Required Text:**

Environmental & Natural Resource Economics,  
Tom Tietenberg, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (TT)  
Fair Play, Steven Landsburg (SL) (out of Print –Check Amazon)

**Academic Papers:**

Available on Blackboard

**Course Prerequisites:**

Principles of Economics (Econ 103 and 104) or equivalent.

**Grading:**

Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	50%
Extra Credit – Questions	Up to 5%

**Objectives and Overview:**

This class is a single semester course in environmental economics with the objective to familiarize students with the tools used by economists to analyze economic behavior as it relates to environmental outcomes. In addition, students will learn how to use reasoning and processes to inform and develop environmental policy. This class is an economics course and will therefore focus on economic tools and principles that apply to general environmental challenges and will not be used as a forum for debating the political or scientific implications of specific environmental issues.

**Attendance:**

There will be twelve simple pop quizzes based on the assigned readings during the semester. Attendance will not be taken in class, but if you miss class lectures, you will be at a disadvantage on the midterm and final exams since all questions will be taken from the class lectures. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from fellow classmates.

**Communication:**

I will on occasion email the class to make general announcements or alert the class to items that have been posted to blackboard. Mason uses only Mason e-mail

accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason e-mail account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information including messages related to this class. I will generally not be available by phone outside of office hours and encourage students to use my email or take advantage of the office hours if a lengthy response is required. Do not attempt to contact me using any email or phone other than the one provided in this syllabus.

**Honor Code:**

Students are expected to understand and to adhere to the honor code of George Mason University. Students may neither give nor receive help from other students or from other sources during exams or quizzes. Students are obligated to report any violations observed.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the [Office of Disability Services](http://ods.gmu.edu) at 703.993.2474 or [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Important Deadlines:**

- Last Day to Add: September 3, 2013
- Last Day to Drop, No Penalty: September 3, 2013
- Last Day to Drop, 33% Penalty: September 18, 2013
- Last Day to Drop, 67% Penalty: September 27, 2013
- Selective Withdrawal Period: September 30 to October 25, 2013

**Course Schedule and Content:**

Week 1: August 26	Introduction and Overview
<i>Reading: (TT) Chapter 1</i>	
Week 2: September 2	Property Rights and Externalities
<i>Reading: (TT) Chapter 2: Pages 6-31, Tragedy of the Commons</i>	
Week 3: September 9	Public Goods and Market Failures
Reading: (TT) Chapter 2 Pages 31 to 45, Public Goods	
Week 4: September 16	Evaluating Tradeoffs
Reading: (TT) Chapter 3, The Problem of Social Costs	
Week 5: September 23	Valuing the Environment
Reading: (TT) Chapter 4, Market Based Policy Options	
Week 6: September 30	Dynamic Efficiency
Reading: (TT) Chapter 5, The Common Law	
Week 7: October 7	Mid Term Preview
Reading: Efficiency and All That	

**MIDTERM EXAM: October 11**

Week 8: October 15 (Monday Class Meets Tuesday)	Common Pool Resources
Readings: (TT) Chapter 13, Property Rights Regimes	
Week 9: October 21	Stationary Source Air Pollution
Reading: (TT) Chapter 15	
Week 10: October 28	Climate Change and Game Theory
Reading: (TT) Chapter 16	
Week 11: November 4	Mobile Source Air Pollution
Reading: (TT) Chapter 17	
Week 12: November 11	Water Pollution
Reading: (TT) Chapter 18	
Week 13: November 18	Population and Development
Reading: (TT) Chapter 21	
Week 14: November 25 (Monday Only)	Game Theory II

**November 27<sup>th</sup> - December 1 - No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15: December 2	Final Exam Review and Summary
Reading: (TT) Chapter 22	

**December 11: 1:30pm - 4:15pm**

**FINAL EXAM**