

**ECON 335**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS**

**SPRING 2013**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:30pm – 2:20pm  
Room Assignment: Robinson A-247

Instructor: David Chandler Thomas  
Office and Hours: Enterprise 354 Cubicle - 12:00pm – 1:00pm  
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)

**Optional Text:**

The Skeptical Environmentalist,  
B. Loborg, Cambridge University Press. (BL)

**Academic Papers:**

“The Tragedy of the Commons” - Garrett Hardin, 1968 (GH)

**Course Prerequisites:**

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

**Grading:**

Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	50%
Extra Credit – Class Participation	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 ten simple pop quizzes based on the weekly 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 exam 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 (Full-Semester Course): January 29, 2013
- Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course): February 22, 2013
- Selective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course): February 25 - March 29, 2013 (undergraduates only)

**Course Schedule and Content:**

Week 1: January 22nd	Introduction and Overview
Reading: (TT) Chapter 1	
Week 2: January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Property Rights and Externalities
Reading: (TT) Chapter 2: Pages 6-31	
Week 3: February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Public Goods and Market Failures
Reading: (TT) Chapter 2 Pages 31 to 45	
Week 4: February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Evaluating Tradeoffs
Reading: (TT) Chapter 3	
Week 5: February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Valuing the Environment: Stated and Revealed Preference
Reading: (TT) Chapter 4	
Week 6: February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Dynamic Efficiency
Reading: (TT) Chapter 5	
Week 7: March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Review

**March 8<sup>th</sup>****MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 8: March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**SPRING BREAK**

Week 9: March 18<sup>th</sup>

Common Pool Resources

Readings: Tragedy of the Commons (GH), (TT) Chapter 13

Week 10: March 25<sup>th</sup>

Stationary Source Air Pollution

Reading: (TT) Chapter 15

Week 11: April 1<sup>st</sup>

Climate Change

Reading: (TT) Chapter 16

Week 12: April 8<sup>th</sup>

Mobile Source Air Pollution

Reading: (TT) Chapter 17

Week 13: April 15<sup>th</sup>

Water Pollution

Reading: (TT) Chapter 18

Week 14: April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Population and Development

Reading: (TT) Chapter 21

Week 15: April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>

Review and Summary

Reading: (TT) Chapter 22

**May 8<sup>th</sup>: 1:30pm to 4:15pm**

**FINAL EXAM**