ECON 4302: Environmental Economics

Fall 2012

Syllabus

Instructor: Timothy A. Wunder  Office: COBA 319
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am to 12:30pm and also by appointment.
Phone:  817-272-3257
Email: tim.wunder@uta.edu
Web: http://www.uta.edu/faculty/timothyw/

Class Expectations:

1. I expect that you will read this syllabus and abide by the information in it. Continuation in this class implies that you have read this syllabus and agree to the terms within.

2. I expect that you will come to class prepared to discuss the material, which was assigned in the schedule.

3. I expect academic integrity. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in the severest possible manner. It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

4. I expect you to be here on exam days. Prior arrangements are possible but emergencies require written verification to allow a make up exam.

5. All assignments are to be handed in by 11:00 pm of the day they are due. No electronic copies will be accepted. Twenty percent of the value of the assignment will be deducted for every day the assignment is late.

6. You should expect me to be prepared for the class.
7. You should expect to gain a basic understanding of economic thinking with respect to environmental goals and policy.

8. At the end of this class you as the student should be able to do the following (Student Learning Outcomes)
   - Be able to explain the interplay of the environment and the economy.
   - Understand some of the consequences of environmental policy
   - Explain some of the political economy involved with environmental regulation.
   - Offer differing models of environmental regulation and explain the strengths and weaknesses of these models.

Text:

The texts for this class are Economics and the Environment 6th ed. by Eban S Goodstein.

Grading:

Grading will be in the following form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I reserve the right to lower these boundaries but I will never raise them. Any disputes on grading shall be brought to my attention within one week of having the item handed back to the class. You may bring such disputes verbally or in written form.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

This class will have the following ways to achieve points:

1. There will be 3 exams each worth 100 points. These three exams are scheduled in the syllabus.

2. I may also create assignments as I see appropriate. I expect you to be prepared to come to class to discuss the material assigned in the schedule. If I come to believe that a large majority of students are failing to read the material I may choose to give a pop quiz
that will count towards your final grade. I may also give assignments if they seem appropriate at the time. However at this time I do not envision any assignments or grades outside of the three tests.

**August**
23 Introductions, Chapter 1: Four Questions About Global Warming.

28 Chapter 2: Ethics and Economics.
30 Chapter 3: Pollution and Degradation as Externalities.

**September**
4 Chapter 4: The Efficiency Standard.
6 Chapter 5: The Safety Standard.

11 Chapter 6: Sustainability: A Neoclassical View.
13 Chapter 7: Sustainability: A Ecological View.

18 Catch Up and Review.

**20 Test 1**

25 Chapter 8: Measuring the Benefits of Environmental Protection.
27 Chapter 9: Measuring the Costs of Environmental Protection.

**October**

9 Above continued.
11 Chapter 12: The Political Economy of Environmental Regulation.

16 Chapter 13: An Overview of Environmental Legislation.
18 continued.

23 Chapter 14: The Regulatory Record: Achievements and Obstacles.
25 Catch Up and Review.

**30 Test 2**

*Note: last day to drop classes is October 31*

**November**
1 Chapter 15: Monitoring and Enforcement.

6 Chapter 16: Incentive-Based Regulation: Theory.
8 Chapter 17: Incentive-Based Regulation: Practice.

13 Above continued.
15 Chapter 18: Promoting Clean Technology: Theory.

20 Chapter 19: Promoting Clean Technology: Practice.
22 Thanksgiving

27 Chapter 19 continued.

December
4 Chapter 22: The Economics of Global Agreements.

Final: Thursday December 6th 11:00 am. Doors will close at 11:05am and you will not be allowed to take the test if you are late. Be here on time.