

University of Colorado  
Department of Economics

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS--EC3545-001**  
(for non-economics majors)

Phil Graves  
Fall 2012, HLMS 199 12:00-12:50pm

Course Content

The study of environmental economics is interesting, thought-provoking, and controversial. This is both a strength and a weakness; the strength is that the inherently interesting nature of the subject matter results in greater student interest and involvement than might be the case for many

some philosophical issues already hinted at. With this as background, it is possible to turn to a consideration of appropriate environmental policy. The focus is on applications vital to a voting citizenry and to those going on to work in any area of the environment. My ultimate goal for each of you is to have you better understand (maybe even agree with!) how environmental problems are perceived by decision-makers in the "real world," hence better understand the policy approaches--good and bad--made by those decisionmakers.

Texts:

There is considerable difficulty in finding an appropriate text for this course--the reasons are many: 1) most "environmental" textbooks have too little economic content to be useful, 2) most "economic" texts have as prerequisites more economic theory than is required for this course, and 3) many books are overly mathematical for the more policy-oriented approach that I wish to pursue. Because of these problems, I have written a book which is closely related to class lecture material:

and below 60 F, with the usual plus or minus if you are within two points of the grade cutoffs. I will let the top 5% or so of students, based on the first two midterms, out of the final, an incentive to really learn the material--and good for those who don't get out of the final because its average will be lower, hence more points get added. Allowing some students to get out of the final results in the midterms coming later in the semester than is usual, so that more of the

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