Resource Economics 263  
Natural Resource Economics  
Fall 2016

Time  Tuesday and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45, Thompson Hall Room 104

Professor  Tom Stevens, 222 Stockbridge Hall  
Office hours by appointment  
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TA  TBA

Course Objective  This course focuses on how economic analysis helps us understand natural resource management problems and policy options. The first part of the course will examine basic economic concepts and how they can be applied to management of natural resources. The later part of the course will focus on specific natural resource problems and policies (energy, water, fisheries, etc.).

Grading  There will be THREE exams given in class and a FINAL given during the final examination period. Each is worth 25% of your grade. No makeup will be given except in extraordinary circumstances. In class exam dates will be 9/29, 10/27 and 11/22.

We will also have several practice problem sets. These are posted on MOODLE. Do not turn these in since they will not be graded. We will, however, discuss them in class.

Video  The lectures will be videotaped. See MOODLE for the Echo360 video link.


Additional readings, announcements and other items will be posted on MOODLE. Be sure to look at MOODLE at least once a week.
Course Schedule and Reading List (Subject to Change)

1. Introduction (Read Field Chapters 1 and 2)

2. Basic Economic Concepts (read Field Chapters 3 and 4)----9/6 through 9/13
   a. Economic value (benefit) of natural resources.
   b. Use of economic value in management decisions (wolf recovery, Atlantic salmon restoration, etc.)
   c. Economic value (benefit) over time (present value concept)
   d. Economic cost including external (or hidden) cost
   e. Use of economic value and cost concepts: Deerfield River example

3. Concept of Economic Efficiency and Economic Sustainability (Read Field Chapter 5)----9/15 through 9/22
   a. Static Economic efficiency (maximizing difference between economic cost and economic value)
   b. Dynamic Economic Efficiency
   c. Sustainability

4. In Class Exam (9/29)

5. Markets and Economic Efficiency (Read Field Chapter 6)----10/4 through 10/13
   a. Perfectly Competitive Markets

6. Government Intervention and Public Policy (Read Field Chapters 7, 8 and 9)----10/18 through 10/25
   a. Benefit-Cost Analysis
   b. Economic Impact Analysis
   c. Measuring Benefits and Costs

7. In Class Exam (10/27)

8. Case Studies
   a. Water and water markets (Field Chapter 15)----11/1
b. Wildlife and endangered species (Field Chapter 18)----11/3
 c. Ocean Fishing (Field Chapter 13)----11/8
 d. Energy and Global Warming (Field Chapter 11)----11/10
 e. Minerals (are we running out?) (Field Chapter 10)----11/15
 f. Forestry and National Parks (Field Chapter 12)----11/17

9. In Class Exam (11/22)

10. Topics TBA

11. Final Exam

Please See MOODLE for Practice Problem Sets, Additional Reading and More Detail