

ENVS 25: Environmental Policy and Economics

Summer 2019

Class times: Tu/Th 1:00-4:30PM

Location: Interdisciplinary Sciences Building (ISB) Room 221

Instructor: Rachel Voss (rvoss@ucsc.edu)

Office: Natural Sciences II, Rm. 413

Office hours: Tues, 11:30-12:30pm

Thurs, 4:45-5:45pm

& by appointment

TA: Ziyu (Jerry) He (zhe9@ucsc.edu)

Office hours: W 2:45-3:45pm (starting Aug 7) in ISB 417

Course Description

This course introduces you to the economic and policy dimensions of some of the most pressing environmental challenges facing us today. By exploring topics such as population, water, and climate change, we examine the economic underpinnings of environmental problems, and the extent to which different policy responses can address them.

Course Goals

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- Employ key concepts from philosophy, politics, law and economics that help us understand today's environmental problems
- Understand the different ways in which environmental policy can be made and the tradeoffs involved
- Have sufficient policy and economic literacy to participate in interdisciplinary conversations

Course Materials

There is *no required textbook*. All required course reading materials will be posted on Canvas. There is a supplemental text available at McHenry Library Reserves desk that can be a resource to anyone interested in further reading: Goodstein, Eban S. *Economics and the Environment*. Sixth edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2011.

We will use iClicker for in-class quizzes and discussion questions. You must bring a phone with [iClicker Reef](#) or a laptop with access to iClicker Web to class each day -- if this is a concern, please send me an email or discuss options with me in person. We will not be using iClicker Remotes, so if you've purchased one from the bookstore for this class, you can return it. It is

your responsibility to ensure that your chosen device is functioning and that you have internet connectivity. See www1.iclicker.com/students for more information and to download the iClicker Reef app. You will need to pay for a subscription to iClicker (six months costs \$14.99).

Expectations

This is a condensed summer course that will require substantial dedication and active participation both inside and outside of the classroom. Plan to spend up to 12 hours completing readings/assignments in preparation for each lecture and note the relatively strict attendance policy below.

Important administrative deadlines:

Add deadline: Thursday, August 1

Drop deadline: Monday, August 5 (tuition reversed*)

Change of grade option deadline: Friday, August 9

Request "W" grade deadline: Friday, August 16 (no tuition reversal)

Note that there are no "Add by petition" options, administrative drops, or waitlists in Summer Session. Neither Summer Session nor instructors drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves. Dropping before the deadline results in full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP) and grades due, here is the [summer academic calendar](#). For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

Electronics policy

A cell phone with [iClicker Reef](#) or laptop with access to iClicker Web is needed for in-class quizzes. However, these devices can be used only for quizzes and in-class activities, not for notetaking ([why?](#)), and should otherwise be stored away.

Grading

Attendance & participation	15%
Short assignments	15%
In-class quizzes	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Attendance & participation

Attendance and participation will relate primarily to the lecture. Wednesday section is optional and should be viewed as a chance to review difficult topics with the TA during this very fast-paced course. Regular section attendance could, however, earn you bonus points later. Wednesday sections start Week 2, on August 7.

Missing lecture is strongly discouraged; with every absence you miss over 10% of course content. One absence is permitted, but additional absences will result in a loss of 5% of your grade (1/3 of your participation grade) per absence in addition to any points lost on in-class quizzes or activities. Coming late to class three times will count as an absence. More than three absences will result in failing the class.

Exams

The midterm will be August 13th and the final will be August 29th. Both exams are largely multiple choice and the final exam is cumulative. There are no make-up dates for these exams; if you know you cannot be present for one of them, I advise you not to enroll, but you can discuss options with me in the first week of class. Failure to bring up scheduling issues early will likely result in a zero for the exam.

In-class quizzes

In-class iClicker quizzes will test your knowledge of the readings and prior lectures and help you engage with key ideas. Each class period's quizzes (except first day and day of final) constitute 2.5% of your total grade. Everyone will receive an extra 4 points at the end of the course to cover absences or technical difficulties—or, if you've attended every class, these points will offset missed points

Short assignments

There will be three short assignments to complete, each worth 5% of your grade. Details will be posted on Canvas under Assignments. Late assignments will be docked 1% per day late.

Grade alteration policy

In general, I do not allow appeals of grades on assignments unless there is evidence of a miscalculation. This sounds harsh, but only a small subset of students tend to feel comfortable or empowered to appeal their grades. It's rare that grade adjustments have a significant impact on overall class grades.

Tentative course schedule (subject to change; readings posted on Canvas)

Week 1: Population and resources

July 30: Course introduction
Population trends and the demographic transition
Population policy

Aug 1: Resources and the limits to growth
Common-pool resources

Week 2: Protecting and conserving nature

Aug 6: National parks and wilderness
The politics of nature protection
DUE Aug 6: Parks short assignment

Aug 8: Nature for nature or nature for humans?
Payment for ecosystem services

Week 3: Water

Aug 13: ***MIDTERM EXAM***
Water rights and the development of the West

Aug 15: Water in a supply and demand framework
Policy options to deal with the drought

Week 4: Climate change

Aug 20: Mitigation
Start data analysis activity in-class

Aug 22: Adaptation
Geoengineering
DUE Aug 22: Data assignment

Week 5: Environmental futures

Aug 27: Sustainability & green cities
DUE Aug 27: Current event assignment

Aug 29: ***FINAL EXAM***

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The campus [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, please contact the DRC office, located in Hahn 125 or at 831-459-2089 or drc@ucsc.edu.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript. For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity](#) page at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Unless otherwise stated in writing, all course assignments should be written individually and be original works for this class. All academic integrity violations (e.g. plagiarism, cheating, multiple submissions, facilitating dishonesty) will be prosecuted if encountered. Academic integrity includes the use of iClickers. Asking another student to "sign in" for you for an iClicker quiz, or doing that yourself for another student, is a serious academic integrity violation.

Sale/distribution of notes and other course materials

Did you know that selling past exams or class notes online is grounds for discipline under university policy could result in civil penalties under the California Education Code ([Section 66450\(a\)](#))? The University of California Student Policies and Regulations Handbook ([Section 102.23](#)) states that discipline may be imposed for the "selling, preparing, or distributing for any commercial purpose course lecture notes or video or audio recordings of any course unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly permitted by the course instructor in writing. The unauthorized sale or commercial distribution of course notes or recordings by a student is a violation of these Policies whether or not it was the student or someone else who

prepared the notes or recordings.” Violating university policy may result in disciplinary action, including probation, suspension, or other actions, which may have a serious effect on a student’s academic career. Note that this does not apply to notetakers hired by the Disability Resource Center working in their official capacity.

Title IX

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information about the Title IX Office, the online reporting link, applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX/Sexual Harassment Office is located at 105 Kerr Hall. In addition to the online reporting option, you can contact the Title IX Office by calling 831-459-2462.

ENVS Program Learning Outcomes

The ENVS major and combined majors have a set of Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) that we hope each class will contribute to achieving. Here are those PLOs. This course will specifically strengthen your ability to achieve PLOs #1, 3, and 4.

Students graduating with a B.A. in Environmental Studies should be able to:

1. Identify the societal (social, political, economic, cultural and ethical) agents and structures that contribute to environmental change. (social science competency)
2. Describe the structure and functioning of major physical and ecological components of the earth’s systems. (natural science competency)
3. Access and analyze a complex literature addressing specific topics in environmental studies, and evaluate the usefulness and limitations of individual sources of information. (analytic thinking)
4. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills. (communication skills)