Economics 475 – Environmental Economics
Georgetown University Department of Economics
Fall 2015, M-W 9:30-10:45 ICC 116

Professor: Arik Levinson
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Prerequisites: ECON-101 or 103, and ECON-122.

Resources:

2. Various academic articles, distributed via the class web site:
   http://faculty.georgetown.edu/aml6/econ475.html
3. Case studies. The first of these can be purchased on-line at
   https://cb.hbsp.harvard.edu/cbmp/access/39411491

Requirements:

Occasional problem sets (10% total). Students are encouraged to work together on problem sets and may submit joint work if they choose.

Case studies (30%): On the day that each is to be discussed in class, students are to prepare a 1 or 2-page "talking point" memo summarizing key features of the cases under analysis, and answering the decision question posed by the professor. Students are encouraged to collaborate on the memos and may submit joint work.

Midterm exam (25%): Wednesday, 10/21 during class.
Final exam (35%): Exam Monday December 14, 9-11 am.

Missed work: No late assignments will be accepted, and there will be no makeup midterms. If the midterm exam is missed, the final will count for 60% of the course grade.

Honor code: Successful completion of the course requires compliance with the Georgetown Honor Code: gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor.

Important dates:

- 10/7 Case memo #1 "Arsenic in Drinking Water" KSG case #1680
- 10/21 Midterm Exam
- 11/4 Case memo #2
- 11/18 Case memo #3
- 11/25 Wednesday before Thanksgiving. I understand attendance will be sparse, and will try to make the class worthwhile for those who attend.
- 12/9 Case memo #3
- 12/14 Final Exam Monday December 14, 9-11 am, location TBA
Brief Outline:

Here are the readings we will start with. More will be added to topic #5 below when we get there, depending on student interest. All readings aside from Kolstad can be found linked below or at faculty.georgetown.edu/aml6/econ475.html. The password is my first name.

1. Review and introduction.
   - Scan Kolstad chapters 1-4. Read chapter 5.

2. Cost-benefit analysis.
   - Kolstad ch. 6.
   - Gramlich ch. 8.
   - Circular A4 Primer.

   - Kolstad ch. 7-8. (Hedonic markets.)
   - Kolstad ch. 9. (Travel cost models.)
   - Kolstad ch. 10. (Contingent valuation.)

4. Regulating Pollution.
   - Kolstad ch. 11-13.
   - Kolstad ch. 16.
   - Kolstad ch. 17 (pp.346-53).

5. Topics
   - Possible topics include: energy efficiency, regulating automobiles, economic growth and the environment, environmental justice