**Econ 3340 Syllabus**

**Prof. M. Finney**

This course, entitled *Environmental Issues and Policy*, is an upper division GE course in Social Science (block D). We will approach the environmental problem as resulting from human interaction, and study it from a social science perspective. The environmental problem can be thought of as the largely unintended effects of human activity. For example, a byproduct of the decision to drive a gas-powered vehicle is the emission of gases that contribute to global warming. We will discuss how environmental effects should be included in examining the costs and benefits of market transactions. The course will cover various approaches to solving environmental problems.

The textbook for the course is **Environmental Economics, An Introduction** (7th edition) by Barry Field and Martha Field.

**Econ 3340**, administered online,is scheduled to meet from 3:05 to 4:20pm Monday/Wednesday. My on-campus office hours are 5:25 to 5:55pm Wednesday and 2:00 to 3:00pm Thursday. My Zoom office hours are 2:00 to 2:30pm Monday. My email is mfinney5@calstatela.edu.

**[Learning Outcomes](http://milesfinney.net/334/Learning.htm)**

**I. The Environmental Question and the Concept of Incentives** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/scarce_resources.docx)

Chapters 1 and 2

**II. Markets and Pollution** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Market.docx)[notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Negative_Externality.docx)

Chapters 3 and 4

Quiz I

**III. A Model of Pollution Control  [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/general_model.pdf)**

Chapter 5

**IV. Assessing the Value of Environmental Goods** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Measuring_benefits.docx)

Chapter 7

Quiz II

**V. Environmentalism and Social Incentives to be “Green”  [lecture](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/greens1.pptx)**

[Understanding the Solar Home Price Premium](http://milesfinney.net/334/articles/understanding_solar_price_premium.pdf)

**VI. Approaches to Solving Environmental Problems**

**A. Command and Control** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/command_control.docx)

Chapter 11

**B. Market Oriented Solutions** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Incentive.docx)

Chapter 12

**[Midterm](http://milesfinney.net/334/schedule.html)**

**VII. Federal Air Pollution Control Policy** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/fed_air_policy.docx)

**Acid Rain and Emissions Trading** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Sulfur.docx)

Chapter 15

**VIII. Air Quality in Los Angeles** [lecture](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Los_Angeles_Air_Quality.pptx)

[The Southland’s War on Smog](http://instructional1.calstatela.edu/mfinney5/Courses/434/handouts/Progress.htm)

Quiz III

**IX. Social Equity and the Environment** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/equity_demographics.docx)

Chapter 9

**X.** **Hazardous Chemicals and Superfund**  [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/hazard_superfund.docx)

Chapter 16

**XI. International Cooperation and Ozone Depletion** [lecture](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/Ozone.pptx)

Chapter 19, p. 396-401

**XII. Greenhouse Gases and Global Temperature Change**

**A. Global Warming** [lecture](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/global.pptx)

Chapter 18

**B. International Trade and Greenhouse Gas Emissions** [lecture](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/International_trade_used_vehicles.pptx)

[International Trade in Used Vehicles](https://www.dropbox.com/s/00vwvf08h7m8eo1/international%20trade%20and%20used%20vehicles.pdf?dl=0)

**XIII. Developing Countries and the Environment** [notes](http://milesfinney.net/334/lecture/development.docx)

Chapters 20, 21

**[Final Exam](http://milesfinney.net/334/schedule.html)**

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The exams, administered through Canvas, will consist of multiple choice, some problem solving, and short essay questions. Take-home essay assignments will replace a formal paper requirement. I will give you two questions that you will answer in longer essays. You will receive five points extra credit for the essay if you prepare it early and allow me to review it with you. Two homeworks, an evaluation question and three quizzes will be assigned.

**Grade Distribution**

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| --- | --- |
| Midterm | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Essay Assignments | 30% |
| Homework Assignments | 10% |
| Quizzes | 6% |
| Evaluation of Love Canal | 4% |