

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 human transactions. The course will cover various approaches to solving environmental problems.

The textbook for the course is **Environmental Economics, An Introduction** (6th edition) by Barry Field and Martha Field.

Econ 3340 meets in room SH C367B from 12:15 to 1:30pm Monday/Wednesday. My office hours are 1:40 to 2:40pm Monday, and 3:00 to 4:00pm Tuesday/Thursday.

Office Location: Simpson Tower Room 909
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[Learning Outcomes](#)

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- I. **The Environmental Question and the Concept of Incentives** [notes](#)
Chapters 1 and 2
 - II. **Markets and Pollution** [notes](#) [notes](#)
Chapters 3 and 4
 - III. **A Model of Pollution Control** [notes](#)
Chapter 5
 - IV. **Assessing the Value of Environmental Goods** [notes](#)
Chapter 7

[Midterm](#)

- V. **Environmentalism and Social Incentives to be “Green”** [lecture](#)
[Understanding the Solar Home Price Premium](#)
- VI. **Approaches to Solving Environmental Problems**
 - A. **Command and Control** [notes](#)
Chapter 11
 - B. **Market Oriented Solutions** [notes](#)
Chapter 12

VII. Federal Air Pollution Control Policy [notes](#)

Acid Rain and Emissions Trading [notes](#)

Chapter 15, Chapter 13, p. 255-259

VIII. Air Quality in Los Angeles [lecture](#)

[The Southland's War on Smog](#)

IX. Social Equity and the Environment [notes](#)

Chapter 9

X. Hazardous Chemicals and Superfund [notes](#)

Chapter 16

[Midterm](#)

XI. Developing Countries and the Environment [notes](#)

Chapter 19

XII. International Cooperation and Ozone Depletion [lecture](#)

Chapter 20, p. 423-430

XIII. Greenhouse Gases and Global Temperature Change

A. Global Warming [lecture](#)

Chapter 20, p. 430-443

B. International Trade and Greenhouse Gas Emissions [lecture](#)

[International Trade in Used Vehicles](#)

[Final Exam](#)

There will be two midterms and a final exam. The exams will consist of some problem solving as well as short essay questions. Take-home essay assignments will replace a formal paper requirement. I will give you two questions that you will answer in long essays. You will receive five points extra credit for the essay if you prepare it early and allow me to review it with you. In any case, you will lose substantial credit if you turn in an incoherent essay. There will also be two homework assignments.

Grade Distribution

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| First Midterm | 22.5% |
| Second Midterm | 22.5% |
| Final Exam | 26% |
| Essay Assignments | 25% |
| Homework | 4% |
