

Course Syllabus

Environmental Economics and Policy
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Fall 2007

Courses: (34:970:619, 34:833:686, 10:762:451, 3 credits)
Civic Square Building, Room 369, Monday, 1:10 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Professor Joseph J. Seneca

Office: EJB School, Room 388

Office Hours: M 10 a.m. –12 noon; and by appointment if you cannot make scheduled office hours.

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Course Objectives: Scarcity and choice are basic economic conditions that are inevitably present when determining environmental goals and implementing environmental policies. The purpose of this course is to understand the role of economics in environmental issues and, especially, in the formation of environmental policy. The course will emphasize applications to environmental problems in air, water, land use, and natural environments.

Text: The required text is Scott J. Callan and Janet M. Thomas, Environmental Economics and Management, 4th edition, (Thomson, Southwestern), 2007. This is an outstanding text with enormous breadth and depth. It provides extraordinarily rich references to the literature and a large number of highly useful websites for research. Our focus will be on theoretical economic concepts and their policy implications. The multiple applications provided throughout the text enrich the conceptual framework and give students specific content for the theoretical foundations of the course. Students should pursue the websites and references provided throughout the text to gain sophistication in understanding the course content and to assist in the preparation of the required research paper.

Responsibilities: Learning occurs in many ways. It begins, most importantly, by attending class, being prepared with respect to the reading, and participating in our discussions. Our experience will be enriched by attending every class and engaging in discussion with each other as a community of learners. Since the class meets only one time per week, ***attendance is expected at every class***. We will use the first half of each class to present the economic concepts and issues of the material. During the second half of each class, we will focus on specific policy examples and current environmental issues. The class will have an email distribution list for interaction. You will receive email from me on a regular basis on current environmental issues along with associated policy questions for your response and discussion.

