

**SYLLABUS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE  
ECONOMICS  
ECO 359M, FALL 2010**

MAXWELL B. STINCHCOMBE

**ORGANIZATION**

**Basics:** We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in WEL 2.308. The unique number is 33500.

**Reaching me:** My office is BRB 2.118, phone number (512)475-8515, my e-mail address is [max.stinchcombe@gmail.com](mailto:max.stinchcombe@gmail.com). Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m. You can also drop-in, and/or make an appointment.

**Teaching Assistant:** Noah Kaufman, his office is BRB 4.122, email is [noah.kaufman@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:noah.kaufman@mail.utexas.edu), phone is (914) 450-8654, and office hours are Mondays 3-5 and Wednesdays 11-12.

**Texts:** The required textbooks for this class are *Policy Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management* by Thomas Sterner, RFF Press, 2002, and *Resource Economics* by Jon M. Conrad, Cambridge University Press, 2 edition, 2010. As the semester proceeds, we will also cover a number of articles to be given out later.

**Evaluation:** There will be homework assignments due roughly every 2.5 weeks (40%), one in-class mid-term, Thursday October 14, 2010 (10%), and a final exam, Monday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (50%), place TBA.

- (1) We will often review homework assignments on the day they are due. Late homeworks will not be accepted.
- (2) I do not give make-up exams, if you must miss the mid-term exam for university business, please make arrangements with me well ahead of time.
- (3) Missing the final exam means missing half of the credits in the course, and will result in a failing grade.
- (4) By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Background:** I will assume that you have had a good introduction to microeconomics, especially the utility maximization foundation of the theory of consumer choice and the profit maximization theory of the firm, and that you have a good working knowledge of partial derivatives and differential calculus.

**Topics:** The course is an introduction to the basics of dynamic choice in the context of natural resource and environmental economics. The course will discuss the economics of and the policies for managing fisheries, forests, agricultural practices, water, waste, stock pollutants, and non-renewable and renewable resources.

**Schedule:** A rough intended schedule is given below. If needed, I will adjust it.

Week	Dates	Readings
1	Thu. Aug 26	Conrad Ch. 1 and 2
2	TuTh Aug 31 and Sep 2	Conrad Ch. 1 and 2, Sterner Part I
3	Tu Sep 7	Conrad Ch. 1 and 2, Sterner Part I
4	TuTh Sep 14 and 16	Sterner Part II
5	TuTh Sep 21 and 23	Sterner Part III
6	TuTh Sep 28 and 30	Conrad Ch. 3 and 4, Sterner Part VI
7	TuTh Oct 5 and 7	Conrad Ch. 3 and 4, Sterner Part VI
8	TuTh Oct 12 and 14	Conrad Ch. 3 and 4, Sterner Part VI
9	TuTh Oct 19 and 21	Conrad Ch. 5
10	TuTh Oct 26 and 28	Conrad Ch. 5
11	TuTh Nov 2 and 4	Conrad Ch. 6, Sterner Part V
12	TuTh Nov 9 and 11	Conrad Ch. 6, Sterner Part V
13	TuTh Nov 16 and 18	TBA
14	Tu Nov 23	TBA
15	TuTh Nov 30 and Dec 2	TBA

**Academic Integrity:** If a student is found in violation of the standard of academic integrity given below, it is at my discretion to give the student a failing grade for the assignment and for the course. Please do not cheat.

### The Standard of Academic Integrity

A fundamental principle for any educational institution, academic integrity is highly valued and seriously regarded at The University of Texas at Austin, as emphasized in the standards of conduct. More specifically, you and other students are expected to “maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work” undertaken at the University (Sec. 11-801, Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities). This is a very basic expectation that is further reinforced by the University’s Honor Code.<sup>1</sup> At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to: acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts; complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them; follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

For the official policies on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty, please refer to Chapter 11 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities.

This does **NOT** mean that you should avoid working on homeworks with others in the class. Collaborative learning is often very effective. But it does mean that you should not just copy the work of others and hand it in as your own. You must know the material yourself. This **does** mean that all work on exams must be yours and yours alone.

**E-mail:** e-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently, at minimum twice a week, to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>

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<sup>1</sup>The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.