

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
Department of Economics

Cameron

Economics 607 – Seminar in Environmental Economics  
**[Topic Assignments]**

This seminar is designed to introduce the scope of the subject matter subsumed under Environmental Economics. Perhaps more than any other field in economics, Environmental Economics can be characterized as the economics of externalities and public goods. The following assignments for “lead discussant” are proposed. Each topic is followed by a set of initials in capital letters.

(JD) = Johannes Diederich

- Hedonic property value models, pollution taxes, comparative regulatory analysis, double dividend

(ED) = Eric Duquette

- Conjoint choice, averting expenditures models, pollution permits, transboundary pollution

(EG) = Eric Gaus

- Positive political economy, tax interaction effect, human health, sustainability

(PS) = Peter Stiffler

- Travel cost models, trade and environment, carbon taxes, water/wetlands

(TT) = Tung Tse

- Benefits transfer, command-and-control, monitoring and enforcement, biodiversity

(TC) = Trudy Cameron

- everything not elsewhere classified

Lower case initials indicate a ranking between 1-8 for the student involved. Ordinarily, I will expect this particular student to take a prominent role in heckling the lead discussant. Topics with only ( ) annotations are not likely to be covered in much detail this quarter, unless time permits.

Please plan to make a roughly one-hour presentation on your selected topic. Some topics, however, will be more involved and it will be easy to spent an entire seminar period on the subject.

1. Overview (TC)

- a.) environmental benefit-cost analysis (TC)
- b.) philosophical bases: environmental economics, ecological economics (TC)
- c.) EPA research priorities (TC)

2. Cross-cutting issues

- a.) altruism (TC)
- b.) discounting (TC) (eg)
- c.) risk and uncertainty (TC) (eg)

3. Demand for non-market public goods

- a.) hedonic property value models (JD)
  - b.) travel cost models (PS) (jd,tt)
  - c.) site choice models (TC) (ps,tt)
  - d.) stated preference methods
    - a. contingent valuation (TC) (jd,tt)
    - b. conjoint choice (ED) (tt)
  - e.) major application: valuing morbidity/mortality risk reductions
    - a. value of a statistical life (TC)
    - b. wage-risk models (TC)
    - c. averting expenditures models (ED)
  - f.) benefits transfer (TT) (ps)
4. Economics of pollution control
- a.) command-and-control (technology and performance standards) (TT) (jd)
  - b.) market-based methods
    - a. taxes (JD) (tt)
    - b. permits (ED) (jd,ps,tt)
  - c.) monitoring and enforcement (TT) (ps,jd,tt)
  - d.) comparative regulatory analysis (JD) (tt)
5. Other topics
- a.) environmental federalism ( )
  - b.) environment and development
    - a. Environmental Kuznets curves (TC) (ed)
  - c.) liability ( )
  - d.) transboundary pollution (ED) (eg,ps)
  - e.) trade and environment
    - a. FDI and environment (PS) (eg)
  - f.) voluntary approaches (TC) (ed)
  - g.) environmental justice (TC) (ps)
  - h.) positive political economy (EG)
  - i.) precautionary principle ( )
  - j.) regulation and innovation
    - a. Porter hypothesis ( )
6. Applications
- a.) Biodiversity (TT)
  - b.) climate
    - a. carbon taxes (PS) (jd)
    - b. double-dividend (JD) (ps)
    - c. tax interaction effect (EG) (jd,ps)
  - c.) deforestation ( )
  - d.) ecological benefits ( )
  - e.) ecosystems ( )
  - f.) fisheries ( )
  - g.) forests ( )

- h.) human health (see mortality risk reductions, above) (EG)
- i.) sustainability (EG)
- j.) water (PS)
- k.) wetlands (and/or PS)

7. Tools

- a.) datasets
- b.) GIS (TC) (ps)
- c.) CGE models (TC) (ed)
- d.) Experimental economics (TC) (ps)