ECON 4200 - Spring 2017
SENIOR SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS
Friday 207  2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. TR

INSTRUCTOR:  Peter Schwarz, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, and Senior Faculty Associate, EPIC (Energy Production and Infrastructure Center), UNC Charlotte, and Visiting Professorship, China University of Mining and Technology

OFFICE:  Friday 223A  OFFICE HOURS:  TR 10:00–11:00 am; 1-1:30 pm and by appointment.
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CANVAS: Grades, announcements, discussion board, email

Catalog Course Description
An integrative capstone course for the economics major that should normally be taken during the student’s last semester of study. The primary objective is to provide a framework in which senior economics majors can review and solidify their understanding of economic concepts by applying those concepts to specific economic issues. Topics vary. Analytical ability and written and oral communication skills are assessed.

Course Prerequisites
ECON 3112 (Econometrics), ECON 3122 (Intermediate Microeconomics), ECON 3123 (Intermediate Macroeconomics), Grade of C or better; Economics Major, Senior Standing

Course Objective
The objective of the Senior Seminar course is to help you continue developing your analytical ability and your written and oral communication skills. This objective can be accomplished while studying any number of topics. Our topic for this offering of the Senior Seminar course is Environmental Economics.

Required Text: Nathaniel Keohane and Sheila Olmstead, Markets and the Environment 2e, 2016, Island Press

Required Additional Reading: Gernot Wagner, But Will the Planet Notice? 2011, Macmillan

Required: McCloskey, Economical Writing


Optional: Strunk and White, The Elements of Style
https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxcmVhdG9uc2V3YzR1fGd4otiQ1mmU3OWFiNzAzTk2M2M

Required: U.S. News and World Report, 15 Strategies for Giving Oral Presentations

Optional: http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/ctlr/students/olr/study/speaking
The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class, on Canvas, and by email.

Outline of Topics and Reading Assignments

I. Theory and Tools of Environmental Economics

1/10, 1/12 Introduction
   Chapter 1

Martin Luther King Day 1/16

1/17, 1/19 Economic Efficiency and Environmental Protection
   Chapter 2

1/24, 1/26 The Benefits and Costs of Environmental Protection
   Chapter 3

1/31, 2/2 The Efficiency of Markets
   Chapter 4

On Writing

2/7, 2/9 Market Failures in the Environmental Realm
   Chapter 5

2/9 Take-home Exam 1 distributed: Chapters 1-5, incorporating McCloskey

II. Market-Based Environmental Policies

2/14, 2/16 Principles of Market-Based Environmental Policy
   Chapter 8

2/16 Take-home Exam 1 due.

2/21, 2/23 The Case for Market-Based Instruments in the Real World
   Chapter 9

2/28, 3/2 Market-Based Instruments in Practice
   Chapter 10

Spring Break March 6-11
III. Sustainability and Economic Growth
3/14, 3/16 Chapter 11
3/16 Take-home Exam 2 distributed: Chapters 8-11, incorporating McCloskey
3/20 Last day to withdraw from course.
3/21 Conclusion
Chapter 12
How to do an oral presentation.
Oral presentations on chapters 1-9 from But Will the Planet Notice? assigned.
(I will do introduction and final chapter.)

IV. But Will the Planet Notice?
3/23 Doing Good
3/23 Take-home Exam 2 due.

3/28, 3/30 1. Cue the Economists, 2. Doing Nothing
4/4, 4/6 3. All-or-Nothing Conservation, 4. Fewer Fish, More Dough
4/14-15 Spring Weekend


5/2 Make-up class for topics not covered earlier in semester
5/2 Take-home Exam 3 distributed on But Will the Planet Notice?

Determination of Grades
Course grades will be determined by your performance on three take-home tests, homework, and one oral presentation. These components will have the following weights in the calculation of your final grade: 20% for each of the three tests, 20% for the homework, and 20% for the oral presentation. Each of the three tests will consist of discussion and analytical questions. The third test will be given at due between 2-4:30 pm on Tuesday May 9 (the final examination time assigned for this course).

Wednesday 5/3 Reading Day

Tues 5/9 2-4:30 pm TURN IN FINAL EXAM: Covers But Will the Planet Notice?
Academic Integrity
Students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html.

Disability Accommodations
UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services early in the semester. For more information about accommodations, you may contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit the Office of Disability Services itself in Fretwell 230.

The Belk College of Business Diversity Statement
The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.