

Royal Military College of Canada  
Department of Political Science and Economics

**ECE 444 – Environmental Economics  
Fall 2014**

**Professor:** Stephen Snudden

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**Lectures:** Monday 8:00 - 10:00am in 233 Girouard and Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00am in 107 Girouard.

**Office Hours:** By appointment, Wednesdays after class.

**Website:** <http://www.econ.queensu.ca/snudden/teaching/ECE444/F14>

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the major elements of environmental analysis and policy instruments used by the public sector. Topics include: the notions of dynamic efficiency and sustainability, property rights and externalities, environmental legislation, measures of costs and benefits, and pollution controls.

**Textbooks:** (required) Kolstad, Charles D. 2011. “Environmental Economics.” Oxford University Press, New York, New York. ISBN 978-0-19-973264-7

**Prerequisites:** ECE 103, ECE 104. MAE 113 or its equivalent is strongly recommended as the use of calculus in this course is unavoidable.

**Grading:** Your final mark will be determined according to the following grading scheme:

Assignments (2).....	30%
Discussion Papers (2).....	30%
Final Exam (closed book).....	30%
Participation.....	10%

**Assignments:** The course will have two assignments. You are required to answer any fifteen questions out of a set of over twenty questions. It is recommended that you attempt all questions as the exam will be based on the assignments. You will be selected to present solutions in class on the due date. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Discussion Papers:** The course will have two short discussion papers. The first paper is a summary of a major environmental incident and the documented associated economic costs. The second assignment will require providing a recommendation and supporting analysis for a policy measure to address an environmental problem. You will be required to present a summary of their findings in class in a short presentation followed by discussion.

**Final examination:** The final exam takes place at the end of the semester after classes have finished, at a date and location that are to be determined. You are required to write the final exam. At a minimum, it will cover all the material gone over in class. You will be notified of any additional content that may be examinable. Note that *the final exam questions will be very similar in style to those given in the assignments.*

**Class participation:** Participation marks will be awarded on the basis of class participation in

discussions as well as debate surrounding assignments and discussion papers. Note that class participation includes both active listening as well as active contribution to discussions. Students that are disruptive, frequently miss class, or who are not participatory will lose marks from this category.

**Tentative Course Outline:** All chapters will be covered. Due to time constraints, some subjects will be given more focus. How this translates to examinable material will be reflected in the assignments: if it is skipped, it is not examinable. The additional materials will be made available on the course website.

### **Course Outline and Reading List**

- I. Introduction (Ch 1-2)
  - Week 1. Preliminaries, Ch. 1 and 2 (Sep. 3).
  - Week 2. Ch. 3 and 4 (Sep. 8); **Topics for Discussion Paper 1 Due (Sep. 10).**
  
- II. How Much Environmental Quality? (Ch 3-10)
  - Week 3. Ch. 5 and 6 (Sep. 15, 17).
  - Week 4. **Discussion Paper 1 Due (Sep. 22)**; Ch. 7 (Sep. 24).
  - Week 5. Ch. 8 and 9 (Sep. 29, Oct. 1).
  
- III. Regulating Individuals and Firms (Ch 11-14)
  - Week 6. Ch. 10 and 11 (Oct. 6, 8).
  - Week 7. **Assignment 1 Due (Oct. 15).**
  - Week 8. Ch. 12 and 13 (Oct. 20, 22).
  - Week 9. Ch. 14 (Oct. 27, 29).
  
- IV. Advanced Topics (Ch 19-20)
  - Week 10. Ch. 19 (Nov. 3, 5); Topics for Discussion Paper 2 Due (Nov. 5).
  - Week 11. Ch. 20 (Nov. 10); **Assignment 2 Due (Nov. 12).**
  - Week 12. Assignment 2 Review (Nov. 17); **Discussion Paper 2 Due (Nov. 19)**
  - Week 13. Additional Presentations (Nov. 24); Final Exam Review (Nov. 26).

**Miscellaneous:** Questions sent via email will be answered at the beginning of next class. Do not bother sending questions the night before the due date of an assignment, discussion paper, or exam.

My office hours are *by appointment*. Please request an appointment in class or by e-mail. Office hours will take place immediately after class on Wednesdays.

**Statement of Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity will be strictly upheld. Students should read the statement of academic integrity and familiarize themselves with common violations. The link is provided below. It is recommended that you check for plagiarism prior to submission using a web based search as the papers will be checked by the professor in the same manner.

<http://www.rmc.ca/aca/ac-pe/ug-apc/ar-rce/index-eng.php#am-mce>