Boston College
Department Of Economics
Instructor: Bani Ghosh

EC 278: Environmental Economics, Fall 2011
EC 278.01: T, Th: 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM, Campion Hall 200
EC 278.02: T, Th: 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM, Cushing Hall 333

Course website: http://bghosh1.pageout.net/
Office: Room 440 P, 21 Campanella Way
Email: ghoshm@bc.edu
Office Hours: T, Th: 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM & 4:15 PM to 4:50 PM

GA: Evan Petkov
Email: petkov33@gmail.com

Course Objective:

Hi there! Welcome to Environmental Economics, a field of economics concerned with the impact of the economy on the environment and the appropriate methods to regulate economic activity so as to maintain the fragile balance between environmental, economic and social objectives. Selected topics in environmental economics will be reviewed to illustrate the application of economic principles to environmental decision making. This course is designed to equip the student to appreciate the economic arguments central to resource allocation, usage and their environmental implications. Throughout this course, we will examine the difficult trade-offs that environmental issues entail and how proper policies need to be formulated both at the national and international levels to rectify current practices that harm the environment. We will outline how analytical tools of economics can be used to understand environmental issues and provide the foundations for innovative solutions.

Text:

Policy Regarding Attendance, Exams and Home-works:

Attendance is compulsory in this class. There will be grade penalties for unexcused absences at the discretion of the instructor. The examinations will be a combination of True or False, graphical/numerical problems and short essays. There will be two, in-class mid term exams, each worth 20% of the course grade. The Final exam, with similar format as the other exams, is worth 30% and will be cumulative. Two homework assignments will be given in the semester and together, will be worth 20% of the grade. Any unverified absence during a midterm or Final will result in a zero for that exam. Attendance and class performance will account for 10% of the course grade. Late submission of home-works will result in a 20% penalty. Late assignments will not be accepted after graded home-works have been returned to students. The exam dates have been included in the syllabus so please plan accordingly.
Course Outline:

• Discussion and Overview of Course Content
• Introduction, Definitions, the Economy and the Environment: Chaps 1, 2
• Benefits and Costs, Supply and Demand: Chap 3
• The Markets: Chap 4
• Economics of Environmental Quality: Chap 5
• Analysis Frameworks: Chap 6
• Benefit Cost Analysis: Chaps 7, 8
• Environmental Policy: Chap 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 (selected topics)
• Environmental Policy in the US: Chaps 14, 15, 16 (selected topics)
• International Issues: Chaps 20, 21

First Midterm: Thursday, October 20 in class
Second Midterm: Tuesday, November 15 in class
Final Examination:
   Wednesday, December 14, 12:30 PM in class (EC 278.01)
   Tuesday, December 20, 5:00 PM in class (EC 278.02)

Any infraction of the University’s Academic Integrity Policy will result in an automatic F for the course and the offense will be reported to the Dean’s office. There will be no exceptions.
Boston College is committed to providing equal and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social, and recreational programs and activities. The Disability Services Office at Boston College ensures that students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations and assistance in order to participate fully in University programs. Students requiring assistance are advised to get in touch with the Office of the Dean for Student Development.

Enjoy the class