

Department of Economics
Environmental Studies Program
University of Colorado at Boulder

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ECON 8545
ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS II
SPRING 2014
T-TH 11:00-12:15, ECON 5

Overview:

This course is an applied course in environmental economics with an emphasis on energy

Course Requirements and Grading:

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| Reading/class participation | 15% |
| Referee reports | 15% |
| Midterm exam | 20% |
| Final exam | 20% |
| Research paper/proposal | 30% |

Reading/Class Participation:

Please come to class each day ready to discuss the assigned reading. Please prepare a 1 page summary of each paper that discusses: the main research question; data used in the analysis; the empirical approach, structural versus reduced form, identification of the parameter(s) of interest, etcetera; and any major assumptions or limitations of the study. I will randomly select several of these summaries during the semester to evaluate as part of your class participation grade.

Referee Reports:

Each student is required to submit two original referee reports on unpublished empirical papers in environmental economics. I will select each paper from the NBER EEE or similar working paper series. The report should not exceed 4 pages. Each report should (briefly) summarize the main contribution of the paper, strengths and weaknesses and areas for improvement. Your goal is to critically evaluate the manuscript and provide feedback the author(s) could use to improve their work. Due dates are: **February 25, 2014** and **April 8, 2014**.

Schedule of topics:

* Denote required readings for which you are to turn in an executive summary

I. Introduction

* Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke (2010), “The Credibility Revolution in Empirical Economics: How Better Research Design is Taking the Con out of Econometrics.”
, Spring 2010

Angrist and Krueger, “Empirical Strategies in Labor Economics”

* Nevo and Whinston (2010), “Taking the Dogma Out of Econometrics: Structural Modeling and Credible Inference,”
, Spring 2010

Reiss and Wolak, “Structural Econometric Modeling: Rationales and Examples from IO”

II. Environmental Regulation and Effects

A. Transportation

B. Electricity and Manufacturing

* Greenstone (2002), “The Impacts of Environmental Regulations on Industrial Activity: Evidence from the 1970 and 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments and the Census of Manufactures.”

* Albouy, Graf, Kellogg and Wolff, “Aversion to Extreme Temperatures, Climate Change, and Quality of Life.” <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~kelloggr/NBERw18925.pdf>

Deschênes, Olivier and Michael Greenstone (2008), “Climate Change, Mortality and Adaptation: Evidence from Annual Fluctuations in Weather in the U.S.”
3(4): 152-85.

Zivin, Joshua Graff and Matthew Neidell (2010), “Temperature and the Allocation of Time: Implications for Climate Change.”
Vol. 32, No. 1 (January 2014),
pp. 1-26

V. Discussion of final projects