
AREC 340: INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Seidl

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Phone: +1 (970) 491-7071

Communication Policy: I am most responsive to email and will respond within 24 hrs whenever possible.

Office hours: 2-3:00 pm TTh and by appointment. Office hours will be conducted in zoom.

Teaching assistant: Ms. Kelly Wallace

Email: Kelly.Wallace@colostate.edu

Phone: +1 (970) 491-7071

Communication Policy: Kelly is your primary point of contact and is responsible for all grading. If you have concerns about your grade please first go to Kelly for clarification. The three of us can meet if an agreement cannot be reached between you.

Office hours:

PREREQUISITES FOR COURSE

AREC/ECON 202 or equivalent or consent of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to natural resource economics. The tools learned in the principles of economics are applied to a diverse set of natural resource issues and policies including: forestry, mining, marine, climate change, wildlife, biodiversity, agriculture and recreation. In examining these issues, students will become better acquainted with resource economics models and decision-making, applied welfare analysis and multi-generational economic problems.

Upon the completion of this course, students will be:

- aware of significant natural resource issues worldwide and across socioeconomic scales;
- able to cast natural resource issues within an economics analytical framework;
- able to write and converse about natural resource economics in depth and with rigor;
- able to apply economic tools to natural resource problems when describing the efficiency and equity of the status quo and the consequences of proposed natural resource policy alternatives.

TEXTBOOK / COURSE READINGS

Field, B.C. 2015. [Natural Resource Economics: An Introduction, Third Edition](#). ISBN 978-1-4786-2780-7. Waveland Press. 477 pp.

Various platforms (paper back, kindle, pdf) and property rights alternatives (own vs rent) are available. Some students have used earlier editions of the text in order to save some money. This is not a perfect

solution, as the editions are in fact different and we cover the 3rd edition. However, coupled with the slide decks and course recordings, students have been successful with this strategy.

COURSE MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

Students will require access to a computer of some kind and a dependable internet connection. Recordings of all lectures, slides decks, Ted talks, etc are made available to the class.

PARTICIPATION/BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

The course Canvas website will be used to post video lectures, assignments, quizzes, discussions and course notes. Please post your homework, quiz, discussion and exam submissions there. This course can be completed synchronously or asynchronously in Fall 2020. However, the due dates, late penalties, opening and closing of course materials will be the same regardless of whether you attend class or choose not to.

Please review the [core rules of netiquette](#) for some guidelines and expectations on how to behave in an online learning environment.

COURSE POLICIES (LATE ASSIGNMENTS, MAKE-UP EXAMS, ETC.)

Examinations (50% of total grade):

The examinations will be weighted 25% each for Midterm I and II.

Examination questions will be short answer and graphical or mathematical illustrations of concepts and issues covered in class. Information will be taken from the text and from classroom discussion. Examinations will be administered online and will be closed note and closed collaboration. Many current issues are complex and require individual evaluation from a variety of perspectives. In writing your exams, please restrict yourselves to the economic arguments supporting your position.

Review materials will be available one week prior to the examination. Review sessions will consist of in class instructor responses to student questions. If there are no questions, there is no review. We encourage you to take advantage of this group session rather than wait for individual time with the TA and/or Instructor. ALL exam answers are found within the book and lecture materials. There are no trick questions.

Students will be allowed no more than 75 minutes to complete each examination. Once you have opened the exam you must complete it within 75 minutes unless you have been granted accommodations in advance and in writing. The exam period will commence immediately after the review session and end 7 days later, so the acceptable exam period will always include a weekend.

Quizzes (25% of the total grade):

Weekly quizzes will be 1- 5 questions (weighted 1% of your total course grade per question) on core concepts in the lecture, book and/or external resources explicitly discussed in class. They provide a quick comprehension check with minor consequences for your grade.

Homework (25% of total grade):

There will be two types of homework:

- 1) Graphical and/or mathematical applications of the concepts and tools taught in class. They will be due one week from the date of assignment and submitted before 5 pm of the due date. Collaboration is anticipated and is not discouraged. However, each question submitted **shall be individually authored**, in the student's own words, and shall not be duplicated from another current or past student or copied verbatim from the text. Photographs of hand or computer drawn graphs are acceptable. **Photographs of graphs directly from the book are unacceptable.** Late submissions are accepted until the exercise key is provided to the class. Such submissions will be subject to a **10% per day decrease** in total possible points obtainable. (3 @ 5% each)
- 2) Four (4) independent analyses of a contemporary natural resource economic issue found in Ted talks of your choice (<https://www.ted.com/talks>). One analysis submission will be required every 3-4 weeks. You may complete any or all analyses before the due date, but not after it. You may use the TED talk provided in the link or choose a different one according to your interests.

Submissions will provide a critical analysis of the problem **using economic concepts, graphical and/or mathematical representations** and be 1 page, single spaced, 11 pt font, in length. Submissions will be turned in prior to 5 pm Friday December 6. Late submissions will receive zero credit. Grading criteria will include an assessment of writing quality including logical support, grammar, spelling and form. (4 @ 2.5% each)

GRADING POLICY

The class will be graded in the following manner:

A >90% B >80% C >70% D >60% F <60% (+/- at instructor's discretion)

All assessments will be completed and reported within one week of the due date. If, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than one week, we will keep you informed of our progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as we can.

CANVAS INFORMATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Canvas is the where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- [Login for Canvas](#)
- [Canvas Support](#)
- For passwords or any other computer-related technical support, contact the [Central IT Technical Support Help Desk](#). (970) 491-7276. help@colostate.edu
- The [Technical Requirements](#) page identifies the browsers, operating systems, and plugins that work best with Canvas. If you are new to Canvas quickly review [the Canvas Student Orientation](#) materials.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & CSU HONOR PLEDGE

This course will adhere to the CSU [Academic Integrity/Misconduct](#) policy as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course.

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Academic Integrity - Student Resources](#).

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING/ACCOMMODATION OF NEEDS

I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning.

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner. A verifying memo from [The Student Disability Center](#) may be required before any accommodation is provided.

The Student Disability Center (SDC) has the authority to verify and confirm the eligibility of students with disabilities for the majority of accommodations. While some accommodations may be provided by other departments, a student is not automatically eligible for those accommodations unless their disability can be verified and the need for the accommodation confirmed, either through SDC or through acceptable means defined by the particular department. Faculty and staff may consult with the SDC staff whenever there is doubt as to the appropriateness of an accommodative request by a student with a disability.

The goal of SDC is to normalize disability as part of the culture of diversity at Colorado State University. The characteristic of having a disability simply provides the basis of the support that is available to students. The goal is to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity to be as successful as they have the capability to be.

Support and services are offered to student with functional limitations due to visual, hearing, learning, or mobility disabilities as well as to students who have specific physical or mental health conditions due to epilepsy, diabetes, asthma, AIDS, psychiatric diagnoses, etc. Students who are temporarily disabled are also eligible for support and assistance.

Any student who is enrolled at CSU, and who self-identifies with SDC as having a disability, is eligible for support from SDC. Specific accommodations are determined individually for each student and must be supported by appropriate documentation and/or evaluation of needs consistent with a particular type of disability. SDC reserves the right to ask for any appropriate documentation of disability in order to determine a student's eligibility for accommodations as well as in support for specific accommodative requests. The accommodative process begins once a student meets with an accommodations specialist in the SDC.

THIRD-PARTY TOOLS/PRIVACY

Please note that this course may require you to use third-party tools (tools outside of the Canvas learning management system), such as Skype and others. Some of these tools may collect and share information about their users. Because your privacy is important, you are encouraged to consult the privacy policies for any third-party tools in this course so that you are aware of how your personal information is collected, used and shared.

COPYRIGHTED COURSE MATERIALS

Please do not share material from this course in online, print, or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUPPORT

Any CSU student who faces challenges or hardships due to their legal status in the United States and believes that it may impact their academic performance in this course is encouraged to visit [Student Support Services for Undocumented, DACA & ASSET](#) for resources and support. Additionally, only if you feel comfortable, please notify your professor so they may pass along any additional resources they may possess.

TITLE IX/INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

For the full statement regarding role and responsibilities about reporting harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and the retaliation policy please go to: [Title IX – Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment](#).

If you feel that your rights have been compromised at CSU, several resources are available to assist:

- Student Resolution Center, 200 Lory Student Center, 491-7165
- Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 Student Services, 491-5836

A note about interpersonal violence: If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence and/or stalking, know that you are not alone. As instructors, we are required by law to notify university officials about disclosures related to interpersonal violence. Confidential victim advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide support related to the emotional, physical, physiological and legal aftermath of interpersonal violence. Contact the Victim Assistance Team at: 970-492-4242.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

CSU does not discriminate on the basis of religion. Reasonable accommodation should be made to allow individuals to observe their established religious holidays. Students seeking an exemption from attending class or completing assigned course work for a religious holiday will need to fill out the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#) and turn it in to the Division of Student Affairs, located on the second level of the Administration building.

Once turned in, the Division of Student Affairs will review the request and contact the student accordingly. If approved, the student will receive a memo from the Dean of Students to give to their professor or course instructor.

Students are asked to turn in the request forms as soon as the conflict is noticed. Similarly, unanticipated conflicts requiring a religious observance, such as a death in the family, can also be reviewed.

CSU PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions.

Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The [Mission, Vision, and Focus](#) webpage of the Vice President for Diversity includes a comprehensive statement of CSU's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

MENTAL HEALTH

Need Help?

CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs or alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others please know there is help available. Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Contact 970.491.6053 or go to <http://health.colostate.edu>. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, tell someone at by calling 970.491.1350 to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources (<http://supportandsafety.colostate.edu/tellsomeone>). Rams take care of Rams. Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.