CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesday - Thursday 11:15 - 12:30
111 Borland

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Ready
112A Armsby Building
863-5575
rready@psu.edu

COURSE URL: http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/r/c/rcr10/431w.html

Office Hours: after any class, or by appointment.
I do not have set office hours. You are welcome to drop by my office anytime. To be safe, though, you might want to call or email first to make sure I am free.

PREREQUISITE: ECON 302 (Intermediate Microeconomics)
You can find a review of the concepts from Econ 302 that are used in this class on the course web site

COURSE OBJECTIVES: During this course, you will

1. increase your understanding of the public policy-making process and of the role of economic analysis in that process,

2. increase your understanding of economic concepts, especially those relevant for benefit-cost analysis,

3. practice applying economic concepts to environmental and natural resource problems, and

4. improve and apply written and oral skills.

REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION: The course grade will be based on two exams, a writing component, and class participation, as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Test 1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Component</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Class Test 2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion and attendance in class</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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EXPECTATIONS AND READINGS:

CLASS PARTICIPATION: You are expected to attend every class, and to take part in discussions and class exercises throughout the semester. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and on your active contributions to class discussion (raising questions – and alternative points of view – in a way that is respectful to everyone in the class). I will take attendance. If you are not in class, and you have not told me why you must miss class, I will count it as an unexcused absence.

REQUIRED READING:
Boardman, Greenberg, Vining and Weimer, Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice, Prentice-Hall. You can use either the second or the third edition. The third edition has been ordered by the bookstore, but used copies of the second edition are available online at a substantially lower price. Check Amazon.com, Half.com, or Abebooks.com. The second edition has a picture of a lighthouse on it. The third edition has a mountain on it. The first edition, which you do not want, has a supply/demand graph on the cover.

Another book we will use is the Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analysis from the US EPA (September 2000). This is publication number EPA 240-R-00-003, and is available at http://yosemite.epa.gov/ee/epa/eed.nsf/Webpages/Guidelines.html

Another useful resource: http://ecosystemvaluation.org/

This is a writing intensive course, so you will be evaluated on your ability to present economic analysis in writing. I will grade you on your content and on your writing (organization, spelling, grammar). For example, I expect you to know the difference between effect and affect. An excellent on-line source of grammar information is www.bartleby.com/141/; William Strunk, Jr., The Elements of Style.

MISSED EXAMS: If you must miss a test, a written excuse must be provided to me before the missed test. If you are ill the morning of the test, you must contact me before the test is offered. In these cases, a make-up test will be administered.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All course participants are expected to adhere to the University’s Academic Integrity Policy http://www.psu.edu/dept/ufs/policies/47-00.html#49-20.

Written Assignments: You are encouraged to discuss your written assignments with others, but the work you turn in must be your own. You are encouraged to consult a range of sources for your assignments, but you must properly cite those sources. Since this is a writing intensive class, I will be very strict regarding plagiarism. If you have any doubts about whether or how to cite a source, please ask.

Tests: While taking a test, you are not permitted to use notes, books, cheat sheets, or to copy someone else's answers (or allow anyone to copy yours). Do not plagiarize: Copying someone else's paper or buying a paper -- or even failing to site a reference from which you took ideas or quotes -- is cheating and will be handled according to University policies.