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**Econ 132**  
**Economics and the Environment**  
**Spring 2009**  
**TR 3:45-5pm Linfield 301**

**Instructor:** Holly Fretwell  
**Office:** 309D Linfield Hall  
**Office hours:** M 9-12, TR 9-11 and by appointment  
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**Phone:** MSU 994-3036/PERC 587-9591  
**Required text:** *Eco-nomics* by Richard L. Stroup and other assigned readings throughout the semester.  
<http://www.montana.edu/econ/hfretwell/index.html>

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This course will be split between seminar and lecture. Your learning will be greatly dependent upon your understanding of the readings prior to class and thoughtful participation in discussion. It is important that you read and understand the expectations in this syllabus. It represents a contract between you and the instructor and your continued enrollment in this course will be interpreted as your acceptance of this contract.

**READING REACTION PAPERS:** You are expected to turn in 6 papers reflecting your understanding of the readings. These papers should be at least 1 but no more than 2 double-spaced, typed pages (~500-700 words). Briefly summarize the assigned paper then react to one or more specific points you found provocative or interesting. Alternatively, you may summarize and then compare and contrast two reading assignments. You may be asked to read your paper to the class. The papers must be turned in by the end of the class session for that reading assignment (or the latter reading). Each will be worth a maximum of 10 points.

*Homework:* 25% of grade

**PARTICIPATION:** Class attendance and participation are expected. Some days will be lecture oriented while others will focus on discussion and debate. It is important to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the topics of the day.

*Participation:* 10% of grade

**Debates:** We will hold several informal debates in class. You will be assigned a team and a stand based on the reading material. Your team will be expected to defend the assigned position. To prepare you will need to read the material carefully, determine the authors' assumptions and the quality of the evidence.

*Debate Participation:* 10% of grade

**RESEARCH PROJECT: Due March 31.** You are required to conduct a research project on a single form of alternative energy summarized by a short 3-5 page paper. Your paper should define your energy source, determine its efficacy and the approximate switch point price. Make note of the existing institutions; is it subsidized, who are the greatest stakeholders, what are the cost and benefits of using the energy source?

*Research Project:* 15% of grade

**EXAMS:** There will be one mid-term exam and one comprehensive final exam. Exams will consist of essay questions that cover information from the assigned readings, lectures, and discussions. Each exam will make up 20% of your grade. You are required to take both exams. **Make-ups will not be given** without a valid excuse and **must be rescheduled PRIOR to the exam date.**

*Exams:* 40% of grade

All exams will be given in the normal class room during class time unless otherwise noted.  
The initial scale is A: >90%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69

## Preliminary Outline and Initial Assigned Readings

(see <http://www.montana.edu/econ/hfretwell/332/index.html> to link to readings)

week 1:	1/15	Intro	(economics and the environment)
week 2:	1/20	Fullerton and Stavins	(welfare economics)
	1/22	Stroup - Chapter 1 (myths 1-4, pages 1-7)	(scarcity)
week 3:	1/27	Stroup - Chapter 1 (myths 5-10, pages 7-15)	(gains from trade)
	1/29	Yandle	(EKC)
week 4:	2/3	Stroup - Chapter 2	(property rights)
	2/5	Miller et al.	(replenishable resources - water)
week 5:	2/10	<i>Nature</i>	(open access – Fisheries)
	2/12	Yandle	(external costs)
week 6:	<b>2/17</b>	David Friedman	<b>(Debate: public goods and other market failures)</b>
	2/19	Fretwell	(public goods and the p.a. problem)
week 7:	2/24	Stroup - Chapter 3	(public choice)
	2/26	Bethell	(public lands)
week 8:	<b>3/3</b>	Anderson, Smith & Simmons; Power	<b>(Debate: Privatization)</b>
	3/5	Meiners and Yandle	(common law)
week 9:	3/10	Stroup – Chapter 4	(institutions)
	<b>3/12</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
week 10:	3/16-20	<b>Spring Break – Yippee!</b>	
week 11:	3/24	Benjamin	(recycling)
	3/26	Bailey	(Are we running out of resources?)
week 12:	<b>3/31</b>	Thomas Friedman; Taylor and Van Doren	<b>(Debate: alternative energy)</b>
	<b>4/2</b>		(alternative energy)
week 13:	4/7	Adler; Goklany	(tradeable permits)
	4/9	Lippke	(carbon sequestration)
week 14:	4/14	Hotinski	(The wedge game)
	4/16		
week 15:	4/21	Norton	(population)
	4/23		
week 16:	<b>4/28</b>	Menell; Ruff	<b>(Debate: FME efficacy)</b>
	4/30	Fullerton and Stavins; Hill; Power and Rauber	(Is it Fair?)
	<b>5/7</b>	<b>Thursday 12:00 - 1:50 p.m.</b>	<b>FINAL: Linfield 301</b>