Economics 281: CSP Discussions Addendum
Fall 2025

TA: Josh Aarons (jaarons@ucsd.edu)
OH: in-person: 3-4 PM Thursday in Eckart 236; Zoom: 4-5 PM Wednesdays
Sessions: MCTF 210 (usually)

Week	Date	Location	Section Type
Week 1	10/2	MCTF 210	Introduction and discussion: Benefit-cost analysis
Week 2	10/9	MCTF 210	Presentations and discussion: Externalities and pollution
Week 3	10/13	TBD	Review for midterm 1 (optional): 3-4:30 PM
Week 4	10/23	MCTF 210	Presentations and discussion: Environmental justice
Week 5	10/30	MCTF 210	Presentations and discussion: Renewable resources
Week 6	11/6	MCTF 210	Presentations and discussion: Taxes and emissions markets
Week 7	11/10	TBD	Review for midterm 2 (optional): 3-4:30 PM
Week 8	11/20	MCTF 210	Presentations and discussion: Adaptation to climate change
Week 9	11/27	MCTF 210	No meeting
Week 10	12/4	MCTF 210	Presentations and discussion: Tools for environmental policy evaluation

Readings and Presentations

Participation in the discussion sessions focused on readings will count for 15% of your grade. One of your responsibilities will be to present a paper with one of your peers. Each pair of students will present an assigned reading to the rest of the class during a discussion section, with one or two pairs per discussion. As a general guideline, you should address (most of) the following during the presentation:

1) What are the key research questions?
2) Describe the setting the authors investigate.
3) What method(s) do the authors use to answer their research question(s)?
4) What are the authors' conclusions?
5) What critiques do you have of the paper?
6) How is the paper connected to the material discussed in lecture?
7) Pose questions designed to generate lively discussion.

You don't have to present these in the above order and each paper may call for a different presentation method. The presentation should run for around 15-20 minutes (max 25 minutes). Please send a copy of your slides to Josh (jaarons@ucsd.edu) by the morning of your presentation.

Students should sign up to present a paper on the google spreadsheet at this link. Please pick one of the two papers for the theme to present. If another group is already presenting a paper, please do not sign up for the other paper. The papers with asterisks (*) in the "Additional (Non-Required) Readings" section can also be presented. If you would like to present one of these, please email me at least a week before presenting so we can let everyone know which papers to read. Please sign up before the end of week 1.

All readings are available from the class google drive folder.

A note on final papers

The final paper for this class has very flexible requirements so that it can allow you each to pursue a topic that interests you. I would encourage you to think about topics you would want to spend time researching. If you're unsure about how to connect that topic to class, please get in touch and we'll figure out a path forward. I will also be available for one-on-one meetings before the proposals and once you start your research and writing (after the second midterm), so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Readings:

Week 1: Benefit-Cost Analysis and Valuing Damages

Carson, Richard T. 2012. "Contingent valuation: a practical alternative when prices aren't available." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26(4): 27-42.

Arrow, K.J., Maureen L. Cropper, George C. Eads, Robert W. Hahn, Lester B. Lave, Roger G.Noll, Paul R. Portney, Milton Russell, Richard Schmalensee, V. Kerry Smith, and Robert N. Stavins (1996). "Is there a role for benefit-cost analysis in environmental, health, and safety regulation?" *Science*. 272: 221‑222.

Mission Bay Wetlands Restoration Benefit Valuation: Read the preface and then read some of the "Valuation Methodology" sections for different benefits.

Week 2: Externalities and Pollution

Graff Zivin, J., Liu, T., Song, Y., Tang, Q. & Zhang, P. 2020. "The unintended impacts of agricultural fires: human capital in China." *J. Dev. Econ*. 147, 102560.

- Skip section 5.4

Eyal G. Frank. 2024. "The economic impacts of ecosystem disruptions: Costs from substituting biological pest control." Science 385.

Optional: NYT: How pollution can hurt the health of the economy
NPR (podcast): How animal scavengers affect human health

Week 4: Environmental Justice

Tanaka, Shinsuke, Kensuke Teshima, and Eric Verhoogen. 2022. "North-South Displacement Effects of Environmental Regulation: The Case of Battery Recycling." *American Economic Review: Insights*, 4 (3): 271-88.

Banzhaf, Spencer, Lala Ma, and Christopher Timmins. 2019. "Environmental Justice: The Economics of Race, Place, and Pollution." Journal of Economic Perspectives 33 (1): 185–208.

Week 5: Renewable Resources

G.R. McDermott, K.C. Meng, G.G. McDonald, & C.J. Costello. 2019. "The blue paradox: Preemptive overfishing in marine reserves." *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 116 (12) 5319-5325, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1802862115.

Birkenbach, A. M., M. D. Smith, and S. Stefanski. 2019. "Taking Stock of Catch Shares: Lessons from the Past and Directions for the Future." *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 13 (1): 130–39.

Required listening: Planet Money: The Less Deadly Catch

Week 6: Design and Performance of Taxes and Emissions Markets

Funke F, Mattauch L, van den Bijgaart I, Godfray HCJ, Hepburn C, Klenert D, Springmann M, Treich N. 2022. "Toward optimal meat pricing: Is it time to tax meat consumption?" *Rev Environ Econ Policy* 16(2):219–240.

Goulder, Lawrence H. 2013. "Markets for Pollution Allowances: What Are the (New) Lessons?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27 (1): 87–102.

Also required: Driving Taxes for the 21st Century

Week 8: Adaptation to Climate Change

Blakeslee, David, Ram Fishman, and Veena Srinivasan. 2020. "Way Down in the Hole: Adaptation to Long-Term Water Loss in Rural India." *American Economic Review* 110 (1): 200–224.

Massetti, Emanuele and Mendelsohn, Robert. 2018. “Measuring climate adaptation: methods and evidence.” *Rev. Environ. Econ. Pol.* 12 (2), 324–341.

Week 10: Tools for Environmental Policy Evaluation

Carleton, Tamma, and Michael Greenstone. 2022. “A Guide to Updating the US Government’s Social Cost of Carbon.” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 16 (2): 196–218.

What is the MVPF? and Executive Summary of A Welfare Analysis of Policies Impacting Climate Change (Hahn, Hendren, Metcalfe, and Sprung-Keyser (2024))

- Presenters will also need to read section 2.2 (“Measuring WTP and Net Cost”) from the full paper