

EEP 162: ECONOMICS OF WATER RESOURCES

UC BERKELEY – SPRING, 2016

SECTION SYLLABUS

1 General Information

1.1 Instructors

Professor: David Sunding
e-mail: sunding@berkeley.edu
office: 207 Giannini Hall
phone: (510) 642-8229

GSI: Andrew Stevens
e-mail: stevens@berkeley.edu
office: 241 Giannini Hall*
***not the location of GSI office hours**

1.2 Schedule

Lecture

- M/W 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,
103 Moffitt Library (basement)

Sections (begin on W, Jan. 27)

- W 2:10 – 3:00 p.m., 201 Giannini Hall
- F 10:10 – 11:00 a.m., 258 Dwinelle Hall

Midterm Exam

- Monday, Feb. 29, in class
103 Moffitt Library (basement)

Final Exam

- Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.,
103 Moffitt Library (basement)

1.3 Office Hours

Professor

- M/W 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.,
207 Giannini Hall

GSI (begin on M, Feb. 1)

- Mondays 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.,
234 Giannini Hall
- No GSI OH on M, Feb. 15. (Holiday)
Instead, W, Feb. 17, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.,
234 Giannini Hall

2 Section Description

The section for EEP 162 has two intended goals: (1) to clarify and reinforce the material presented each week in lecture, and (2) to build the analytical tools used in problem sets and exams. Section attendance is not required, and your grade will not depend on either section attendance or participation. Rather, this section is designed to help you master the course material and clarify any questions you may have. Section and lecture are complements; not substitutes. Each week I will review material from the previous two lectures, discuss papers that were assigned for that week, work through some example problems where applicable, and answer student questions.

I will spend a lot of our time in section going over the quantitative methods presented in class. If you have a relatively weak math background or are not comfortable with multivariable calculus (i.e. solving Lagrangians), section should be quite useful. If you have a more extensive math background, sections are still a good way to reinforce your quantitative skills and connect with the course material.

I am very interested in your feedback about how to make section more useful, so please let me know if there is anything you would like me to cover more or less intensively. Similarly, I want sections to be as participatory as possible, and plan to engage students in a variety of ways. Please come to section mentally prepared to be an active participant.

2.1 Section Notes

I plan to provide a set of section notes each week. I will hand out paper copies of these notes in section, and post an electronic version on bCourses at the end of each week (after both sections have met). These notes are designed to be participatory learning tools, so they are likely to be much more useful to those students who physically attend section.

2.2 Course Topics

Throughout this course, we will discuss many different aspects of water resource economics. Below is a general outline of the material we will cover. Refer to the course syllabus for a week-by-week reading list.

- Water allocation
 - Water rights and entitlements
- Agricultural water use
 - Crop choice
 - Technology adoption
- Groundwater management/storage
 - Dynamic optimization

- Optimal management of a stock/flow system
- Urban water use
 - Water utilities
 - Economics of water shortages
- Water markets
- Case studies
 - The California bay delta

3 Section Policies

3.1 Classroom Conduct

I strive to create a welcoming, supportive, and intellectually stimulating environment in my sections. To that end, I expect all students to behave courteously and respectfully to one another. There are a few policies I ask you to observe:

- **Please be on time** (we will start promptly on Berkeley time). If you are late or have to leave early, try not to disrupt the rest of the class.
- **I do not allow use of electronic devices in my section.** That means no laptop computers or cell phones. In my past experience, I have found that laptops and cell phones significantly disrupt the section environment and stymie conversation. If you usually read assigned readings electronically, I encourage you to either print out a copy of the readings for section or to take hard-copy notes when you read articles. That way, you have something to reference during section discussion.
- **Ask questions.** One of my goals in this section is to help model the problem-solving process. That means working collaboratively with students (you!) to work through problems out loud and on the board. Section is a place where I want you to feel comfortable working through new problems when you aren't sure of the right answer. As an instructor, I am much more disappointed in students who do not engage/participate than I am with students who don't answer questions "correctly."¹
- **Please be respectful of all students' perspectives and opinions**, even if you do not agree with them. Productive discourse and learning are predicated on mutual respect.

¹If you are a student who finds section participation exceedingly stressful, please let me know in person or via email. I don't want anyone to avoid section because they are nervous of getting called on to answer a question.

3.2 GSI Office Hours

If you have questions about material, assignments, or exams, feel free to come to office hours. I will hold office hours each Monday from 9:00 a.m. (sharp; not Berkeley time) to 11:00 a.m. in 234 Giannini. Some weeks, I may need to reschedule my regular office hours due to a conflict. If so, I will send the class an e-mail in advance with details. If you have a regular course conflict and cannot attend office hours at that time, please e-mail me within the first three weeks of the semester so I can try to set up another time to meet with you. While I am happy to answer clarifying questions about homework problems, and will help you with the mathematical methods used in the homework problems, I will not explicitly work through homework problems in office hours.

3.3 E-mail

If you have questions about the course or course material, feel free to e-mail me at my UC Berkeley e-mail address: `stevens@berkeley.edu`. If I can answer your question in a sentence or two, I will do so. However, for more involved/complicated questions, I will probably ask that you come see me in office hours. I will do my best to reply to any e-mail within 48 hours. To speed the response process, please include “EEP 162” in the subject line of your e-mail.

3.4 Assignments

There will be two problem sets in this course. Problem sets will be collected **at the beginning of class** on the day they are due. The first problem set is due on Wednesday, February 24, and the second problem set is due on Wednesday, April 27.

No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments not handed in by/at the beginning of class on their due date will receive a zero. If you are not able to attend class when problem sets are due, you can e-mail them to me ahead of time or have a classmate turn them in for you. In either case, however, your assignment must be submitted **by/at the beginning of class** on the day they are due. We will review solutions to the problem sets in class on the day they are due. Problem set solutions will not be written up or posted online.

You are allowed and encouraged to work with other students on your problem sets. However, each student must hand in their own copy of their work.

3.5 Grading

Your grade will consist of two problem sets (10% each), an in-class midterm (30%), and a final exam during finals week (50%). Grades will be curved. Questions about the curve should be directed to Professor Sunding.

Problem sets will be graded on a “check-plus, check, check-minus” scale ($\check{+}$, $\check{}$, $\check{-}$). A check-plus signifies that the assignment is complete, demonstrates a strong effort, and

is mostly correct. A check signifies that the assignment is complete and demonstrates at least modest to strong effort. A check-minus signifies that the assignment is incomplete, demonstrates little effort, and/or is overwhelmingly incorrect. Historically, check-minuses have been rare: they should be seen as a warning signal about your preparedness for exams. Roughly, you can think of a check-plus as being worth 3 points, a check worth 2 points, and a check-minus worth 1 point. I also reserve the right to grade an assignment as a zero (0) if warranted.

3.6 Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is a serious issue. As a student, you are responsible for abiding by the UC Berkeley Code of Conduct (<http://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct>). Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable. If you ever feel that you need to cheat to pass this class or get a certain grade, it is much better for you to talk to Professor Sunding or myself about your situation than to cheat. The consequences of being caught cheating are too high a cost to be worth the risk. If you have questions about what does and does not qualify as academic dishonesty in this class, please ask either Professor Sunding or myself.

3.7 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have been issued a letter of accommodation from the Disabled Students Program (DSP), please see Professor Sunding as soon as possible to work out the necessary arrangements. If you need an accommodation and have not yet seen a Disability Specialist at the DSP, please do so as soon as possible.

3.8 Illness

If you are ill, please refrain from attending section until you are feeling better. Professor Sunding and I would much rather you get and stay healthy (and keep your classmates healthy) than prolong and spread an illness. If you are sick, please e-mail Professor Sunding and I. We can work on a strategy to keep you “on track” in this course. (This is especially important now during flu season. If you have flu-like symptoms, please stay home and call the Tang center at (510) 643-7177.)