

COURSE SYLLABUS

ECNS 432: Benefit-Cost Analysis (Spring 2019)

Class Schedule: 1:40pm to 2:55pm on Tuesday and Thursday (Linfield Hall 234)

Professor: Dr. Mark Anderson

Email: dwight.anderson@montana.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 am to 10:00 am (307E Linfield Hall)

Course webpage: www.dmarkanderson.com

Course prerequisites: ECNS 301 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

Textbooks: -Boardman et al., *Cost-Benefit Analysis, 4th Edition* (Older editions on Amazon work fine)

Grades: Quizzes: 15% (**We will generally have weekly quizzes on Tuesdays**)

Midterm: 15% (**In-class midterm on Feb 28th**)

Final: 15% (**12-1:50pm May 3rd**)

Group Article Presentations: 5%

Term Paper: 50% (5% for research proposal; 5% for in-class presentation and attendance of classmates' presentations; 5% for peer review of classmate's paper; 35% for final paper)

-Research paper proposal due on Feb 7th

-First draft of term paper due to peer reviewer on April 4th

-Reviewer reports due on April 11th

-In-class individual presentations will be during last two weeks of classes

-Term paper due on April 25th

Material we will cover:

Fundamentals of CBA

- Introduction to CBA and Microeconomic Foundations (Ch. 1, 2, and 3 of Boardman et al.)
- Valuing Benefits and Costs in Primary and Secondary Markets (Ch. 4 and 5 of Boardman et al.)
- Discounting Benefits and Costs; Uncertainty (Ch. 6 and 7 Boardman et al.)
- Option Price and Value; Existence Value (Ch. 8 and 9 Boardman et al.)
- Social Discount Rate; Predicting and Monetizing Impacts (Ch. 10 and 11 Boardman et al.)

Valuation of Impacts

- Valuing Impacts from Observed Behavior: Experiments/Quasi-Experiments (Ch. 12 of Boardman et al.)
- Valuing Impacts from Observed Behavior: Direct Est. of Demand Curves (Ch. 13 of Boardman et al.)
- Valuing Impacts from Observed Behavior: Indirect Market Methods (Ch. 14 of Boardman et al.)
- Contingent Valuation: Using Surveys to Elicit Information (Ch. 15 of Boardman et al.)