

COURSE SYLLABUS

ECNS 432: Benefit-Cost Analysis (Spring 2021)

Class Schedule: 1:40-2:55pm on Tuesday and Thursday

-This class is a “synchronized” online course, meaning that it will be conducted in real time and with *no* recorded component.

WebEx: WebEx link will be sent to you via email for our online classes and office hours. I have also attached the link below. Because I will not be posting recorded lectures, your attendance will be vital for success.

Lecture link:

<https://montana.webex.com/montana/j.php?MTID=mb953751479e7e176a3e04b7e0eacd83b>

Meeting number: 120 238 9461

Password: 5C9ZyxRdmb7

Professor: Dr. Mark Anderson

Email: dwight.anderson@montana.edu

Course webpage: www.dmarkanderson.com (all relevant course material will be posted here!)

Office Hours: Thursday 4:30-5:30pm (via WebEx) or by appointment

Office hours link:

<https://montana.webex.com/montana/j.php?MTID=m0b284076aeb65790e1e68dddcae2a463>

Meeting number: 120 978 1234

Password: mwJEGuYA357

Course prerequisites: ECNS 301 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

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

Grades (posted on D2L): Quizzes/Writing assignments: 15% (We will usually have a weekly online quiz or a short writing assignment)

Midterm: 15% (24-hour take-home midterm on March 4th)

Final: 15% (24-hour take-home final on April 29th)

Term Paper: 55% (research proposal = 10%; peer review of classmate's paper = 5%; final paper = 40%)

-Research paper proposal due on Feb. 2nd

-First draft of term paper due to peer reviewer on April 13th

-Reviewer reports due on April 20th

-Term paper due on April 27th

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.)

COVID-19-related Information (Despite the fact that this class is entirely online, this information is still important, especially for those of you who are taking in-person classes)

Feeling ill. Evaluate your health daily and abstain from coming to campus for other classes if you are ill. Seek medical attention as needed. *In the event of an illness, do not come to campus.* Instead notify your professor about your absence as soon as practical, so that accommodations can be made.

Symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. *Some people will experience symptoms that may simply feel like a mild, common cold.* Persons with the following symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Stuffy or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or general fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

When to seek emergency medical attention. If you are showing any of the following signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing, or persistent pain or pressure in your chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Note: This list is not all possible symptoms. You should call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Testing positive for COVID-19. Individuals with a positive test more than 10 days prior and who have been fully recovered from symptomatic COVID-19 for at least 72 hours are permitted to return to campus. Self-quarantine violations will be reported to the Dean of Students and county health department.

For more information on COVID-19 and COVID-19-related symptoms, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Grades of "Incomplete" and academic misconduct

Grades of "Incomplete": In accordance with MSU policy, incomplete grades will not be assigned except for cases of extreme personal hardship or unusual academic situations that are certified by the Dean of Students. See the "Courses, Credits, and Grades" section of the MSU online catalog (<http://www.montana.edu/wwwcat/academic/acad6.html#IGrade>) for more information.

Academic Misconduct: MSU has developed expected standards of student academic honesty and integrity. Students who violate these standards commit academic misconduct and will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. You are expected to read and comply with the guidelines concerning academic integrity contained in the document, *Conduct Guidelines and Grievance Procedures for Students*, available at http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/student_conduct-code_2008-2009.htm