Economics 332  
The Economics of Climate Change in Hawai‘i

Classroom  
Summer 2016  
Schedule: online

Lecturer  
Oleg Ivanets; olegi@hawaii.edu  
Department of Economics

Introduction  
This course explores economic and ethical issues underlying the threat of global climate change. Students will develop a climate change platform for Hawai‘i based on an analysis of economic and ethical impacts. The course will cover the nature and causes of global climate change and economic solutions. Topics include intertemporal valuation of climate change impacts, energy and resource linkages, mitigation solutions, societal adaptation, and international cooperation.

The course will emphasize Hawai‘i’s unique conditions. In addition to lectures, a number of guest speakers from the community will discuss with students global climate change as it directly affects the state of Hawaii. Students will complete several short written assignments, designed to culminate in a final assignment, which is to formulate a global climate change policy for the State of Hawaii. The final assignment will consist of three parts: a speech to be given by the Governor, a White Paper to be presented to the State Legislature as well as agencies on the state and county level; and a press release/talking points, which will outline in slightly greater detail the substance behind the governor’s speech. Students will work collaboratively as well as independently.

Prerequisites  
This course welcomes students with a broad range of backgrounds. A Principles of Economics course (ECON 120, 130, or 131) is prerequisite for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes  
Students will learn how to apply economic and ethical reasoning to the inquiry of human dimensions of global climate change. By proposing a platform for Hawai‘i policy, students will attain acquire powerful tools and methodologies for addressing the economic ethical and scientific dilemmas surrounding global climate change that will impact humanity for generations to come.

Students will learn the basic terminology of global climate change, scientific concepts, economic policy options, environmental economics, energy economics, and ethics, and strengthen their understanding of key microeconomic concepts.

Students will be able to apply economic theories of intertemporal equity to the generational choices involved with global climate change policy.

Students will understand alternative ways to model the shadow price, or marginal abatement costs, of greenhouse gas emissions and mechanisms available for building new emissions markets in practice.
Students will be able to model environmental externalities to the problem of mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Students will identify economic and environmental issues involved in energy, and the transition to alternative backstop renewable technologies.

Students will advance written and oral communication skills, and develop team management expertise to advance original research and analysis for Hawai‘i.

Students will practice using ethically- and economically- valid frameworks for reaching decisions about controversial economic-based issues surrounding global climate change.

Students will learn about organizations, businesses, government agencies, and individuals, internationally and within the community, who are involved in the global climate change debate as well as learn to identify those groups that may be affected by proposed solutions to this dilemma.

**Textbook**
The required textbooks for this class are:


Additional readings as required will be provided in electronic format online in the resource folder at the http://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal site for this course. The provisional reading list is the beginning of development of a set of resources on this topic. We invite students to help us fill this in over the course of the semester.

**Assessment**

1) Short online quizzes (60%)

After each lecture there will be a short quiz to check the material.

2) Essay (40%)

There will be one large written assignment – essay. Essay will summarize the knowledge obtained during the class as well as should include your personal views on the given topic. Details will be provided in class.

*Policy on late submissions and rewrites including any penalties for late work.*

Failure to deliver any assignment on time will entail a grade deduction.

*Policy on plagiarism.*

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that
the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or drylabbing, which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms. (The University of Hawai‘i Student Conduct Code)

Any student who plagiarizes in this course will receive a failing grade and will be referred to the Dean of Students. To keep out of harm’s way in this area cite your sources and when you quote use quotation marks.

Disability Statement

If you feel you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please (i) contact the KOKUA Program, room 013, QLCSS, 956-7511 or 956-7612; (ii) speak with one of us privately to discuss your specific needs. We will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs related to your documented disability.