Each team of three (3) persons (appointed by Sandra Batie) will select an economic concept, or an economic analysis, or case study that is germane to the syllabus.

Possible Topics Include:

- A method for environmental evaluation (e.g., hedonic pricing, contingent valuation)
- An economic analysis of an environmental issue (e.g., global warming; water pollution)
- An economic analysis of a public policy or issue (e.g., The Clean Water Act; The Precautionary Principle)
- An economic analysis of a policy tool (e.g., tradeable emission permits)
- A critique of some aspect of environmental economics (e.g., Coasian bargaining, willingness to pay versus willingness to accept, irreversibility and option value)

The team will then identify three (3) journal articles that address the team’s chosen topic. The three (3) journal articles will come from economics-oriented journals. Each article will be thoroughly and critically reviewed by the team.

(1) Each team will submit a short review of each article answering the questions on the back of this page: “Format to Reviews”. The article will be fully referenced in the review. A copy of the article will accompany each review.

(2) The team will prepare and present a 10 minute PowerPoint™ presentation or “skit” addressing their chosen topic that includes information and conclusions from the three journal articles and any other sources desired. The Presentation is not, however, about the journal articles…rather the articles provide background information for the presentation. The PowerPoint™ can be composed as (1) a classroom lecture, (2) a lecture to practicing economist professionals, (3) an outreach meeting to non-economists, or (4) a policy briefing to decision-makers. (You may have a better idea---if so, talk to me.)

Dates

September 13 - Team “groups” announced by Dr. Batie
September 20 - Teams select topic. The topic selected is reported to Dr. Batie.
September 27 - Team selects three (3) journal articles
October 4 - Journal article Review #1 due
October 25 - Journal article Review #2 due
November 8 - Journal article Review #3 due
November 15 - PowerPoint™ presentation is due. Teams will be assigned the day of their presentation by Dr. Batie

Grades: 5% of total grade for each of journal article reviews and 5% for presentation.
Critically reviewing an article takes time, knowledge and experience. The following are helpful questions to guide you through a review.

1. Nature of the identified problem
   a. What important question(s) was addressed in the paper?
   b. Was it a question in economic theory? Or, a question relating to methodology and/or methods? …or, a question of significance to a public or private decision maker, individual or group? Was the effort problem-centered or technique-centered? …or, combination of the above?
   c. How does the question relate to the theme selected by your team?

2. What were the objectives of the journal article? …or the research effort on which the article was based? Are the objectives appropriate to the identified problem?

3. What hypotheses, if any, were tested? Do the hypotheses adequately relate to the identified problem?

4. What was the frame of reference for the analysis? What economic concepts guided the approach in the analysis and the path to the conclusions? Were the concepts used appropriately?

5. What tools/techniques were used? Simulation? Other operation research techniques? Econometrics/statistics? Case study? Descriptive analysis? Were the best tools/techniques used to resolve the identified problem?

6. What were the underlying assumptions of the analysis, both implicit and explicit?

7. What were the major conclusions? What hypotheses were rejected and which were maintained as working hypotheses? Did the conclusions match with the objectives?

8. What research areas were suggested for further work?

9. How does the article’s conclusions relate to the theme selected by your team?