

**SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND POLICY**  
**API-905y/Econ 3116**  
**Fall 2018 - Spring 2019**

*Nature of the Course:*

This is a year-long research seminar on topics in environmental and natural resource economics. It meets on Wednesdays from 4:15 PM to 5:30 PM. Seminars emphasize theoretical models, quantitative empirical analysis, and public policy applications, featuring presentations by invited speakers. In addition to students, faculty from the area typically participate in the sessions. Auditors are welcome. There will be an orientation session for students who may wish to enroll on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, in Room L-382 of the Harvard Kennedy School at 79 JFK Street, Cambridge. The first seminar meeting in the fall semester will be on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Course Requirements:*

Registered students must enroll for the full year of the seminar and attend all sessions. They prepare a research paper, an outline of which is due at the conclusion of the fall semester. Papers are due at the conclusion of the spring semester, and should be at the level of the seminar, i.e. graduate-level economics. In addition, students prepare brief (two-page) essays related to each seminar presentation and discussion throughout the year. Required reading consists of papers presented at each session.

*Prerequisites:*

The course is intended primarily for Ph.D. students in economics, political economy and government, public policy, health policy, and related fields with interests in applications in the environmental and natural resource area. Prerequisites include Ph.D.-level course work in microeconomic theory, such as Economics 2010A/B, Economics 2020A/B (cross-listed as Kennedy School API-111/112), and API-109i/110i.

*Instructors:*

Robert N. Stavins  
Office: Kennedy School, Room L-306  
Phone: 617-495-1820  
Office Hours: By appointment

Martin Weitzman  
Office: Economics Department, Room 313  
Phone: 617-495-5133

The faculty assistant for the course is:

Jason Chapman  
Office: Kennedy School, Opposite L-306  
Phone: 617-496-8054

*Additional Information will be available at the Course Web Site*

# SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND POLICY

API-905y/Econ 3116

Robert Stavins and Martin Weitzman  
<https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/44157>

Fall 2018, Wednesday, 4:15-5:30 pm  
Room L-382, 79 John F. Kennedy Street  
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

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and the Department of Economics is Gratefully Acknowledged*

September 5 **Student Orientation**

September 26 **Sebastien Houde**, ETH Zurich. “The Incidence of Coarse Certification: Evidence from the Energy Star Program.”

October 3 **Jacquelyn Pless**, University of Oxford, and Arthur van Benthem, University of Pennsylvania. “Pass-Through as a Test for Market Power: An Application to Solar Subsidies.”

October 10 **Joshua Goodman**, Harvard University, Michael Hurwitz, College Board, Jisung Park, UCLA, and Jonathan Smith, Georgia State University. “Heat and Learning.”

October 17 Matthew Kahn, University of Southern California, Cong Sun, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Jianghao Wang, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and **Siqi Zheng**, MIT. “Does Clean Air Increase the Demand for the Consumer City? Evidence from Beijing.”

October 31 **Severin Borenstein**, University of California, Berkeley, and James Bushnell, University of California, Davis. “Are Residential Electricity Prices Too High, Too Low, or Both?”

November 7 **Joseph Shapiro**, University of California, Berkeley. “The Environmental Bias of Trade Policy.”

November 14 **Michael Mehling**, MIT, **Gilbert Metcalf**, Tufts University, and Robert Stavins, Harvard University. “Linking Heterogeneous Climate Policies (Consistent with the Paris Agreement).” *NOTE: Joint with Business & Government Seminar, Location TBA.*

December 5 **Larry Karp**, University of California, Berkeley, and Christian Traeger, University of Oslo. “Prices versus Quantities Reassessed.”

Note: Name of presenter is in **Bold**.

*For further information, contact Professor Stavins at the Kennedy School (495-1820), Professor Weitzman at the Department of Economics (495-5133), or the course assistant, Jason Chapman (496-8054), or visit the seminar web site.*