Course Offering: 2nd Semester AY 2013-2014

ECONOMICS 275:
NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

Course Background:
Environmental resource issues are increasingly at the forefront of public policy debates. Modern economic policy analysis requires the ability to extend the tools of public microeconomics to externality issues and the management of natural capital.

Course Description:
In this course, we review the methods of static and dynamic optimization to deal with pollution, congestion, waste disposal and management of environmental resources including water, forests, soil, and marine. We develop the principles of sustainable development and sustainability science in contrast to popular representations. Many of the models are presented with tools from intermediate microeconomics or with intuitive derivation of necessary conditions. Topics include: resource management (fish, forest, water), climate change mitigation and adaptation, groundwater management, natural disaster, energy, watershed conservation, recycling, public utility regulation, sustainable development, traffic congestion

Research paper
The professors will be available to help students design publishable research and/or pursue particular policy questions of interest. Students present their analysis of a local or global policy question in class.

Number of Units: Three (3) units
Prerequisites: Econ 201, 202/ COI

INSTRUCTORS:

Dr. Majah-Leah Ravago is an Assistant Professor at UPSE. Her research interests include environmental and resource economics and development economics. She received her Ph.D in Economics from the University of Hawaii.

Dr. James Roumasset is a Professor from the University of Hawaii and a Visiting Professor of UPSE. His research interests include resource and environmental economics, institutional economics, public finance and development microeconomics in developing countries. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.