**Midterm: Wed. April 5, 2017**

**Econ 2505 – Environmental Economics**

**Prof. S. MacDonald**

**You must answer any three of the following essay questions on the midterm exam. The readings and associated PowerPoints have all been posted under “PowerPoint Presentations.” The readings are all posted under “Posts and Links to Weekly Readings.”**

**One of your three questions must be based on material presented by one of the guest lecturers.**

**Assigned readings that were required for and discussed in class are followed by questions about those readings. You should prepare to answer three of the essay answer questions listed here on the midterm as well as key definitions. Links to all readings can be located under ‘Posts and Links to Weekly Readings on Open Lab.**

1. William Emmons presents five major arguments as to why the U.S. economy can no longer rely on consumers to drive economic growth. He points out that American consumer spending was the major source of the prosperous post-war era from 1945 – 1980. **A)** What are the reasons Emmons believes that consumers can no longer be relied on to drive economic growth? **B)** What changes does he believe are needed in the U.S. economy to make up for the weaknesses in consumer spending and to generate new growth? **Please be clear and specific in your answers.**

**Reading:**

William Emmons, “Don’t Expect Consumer Spending to be the Engine of Economic Growth it Once Was” [Consumer\_Spending\_William Emmons](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/macdonaldecon2505wed2016d728/files/2016/02/Consumer_Spending_William-Emmons1.pdf)

1. What are the reasons McClintock believes that urban residents should farm the city? Please be specific and clear in your answer. **B)** Define what McClintock means by the problems of ***metabolic rift,*** ***ecological rift***, ***social rift*** and ***individual rift*? C)** Explain how he believesthese rifts can be overcome by urban residents farming the city? D) What are some ways this could be done and who would benefit? What are the challenges to doing this?

**Reading:**

[McClintock\_Why-Farm-the-City](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/macdonaldecon2505monsp2016/files/2016/02/McClintock_Why-Farm-the-City.pdf)

1. According to the WAVES report, what does GDP fail to measure? What is natural capital and what are the arguments that the article makes for placing a value on natural capital, capital and human resources? A) How specifically does the report believe natural capital should be measured? B) How will accounting for the value of natural capital provide a more accurate measure of the value of what a nation produces? Provide an example of what one country is doing to account for the value of its natural resources.

**Reading:**

The World Bank, WAVES: Moving *Beyond GDP: How to factor natural Capital into Economic Decision Making*

**(Please remember you need to access this article on Blackboard. The file was too large to post on Open Lab!)**

1. Groves and Webber in "Voices: Greening the Gross Domestic Product," argue for greening the GDP. What are the arguments made for greening the GDP? **B)** Groves and Webber propose a *Genuine Progress Indicator*. Explain how the authors define this. **C)** How could this measure be adapted to our own economy?

**Readings:** Greening the Gross Domestic Product, Garrett C. Groves and Michael E. Webber Thursday, April 1, 2010, *New York Times*. [Greening-the-Gross-Domestic-Product](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/macdonaldecon2505sping2017/files/2014/09/Greening-the-Gross-Domestic-Product.pdf)

1. What sectors of the U.S. economy are projected to be affected by climate change in the near future? **A)** According to the reading, why are climate change events expected to negatively affect public sector (government) budgets? Please provide examples from the reading. **B)** What have been the economic costs of some recent extreme weather events? **C)** What are some of the reasons that different regions of the country are expected to experience different climate impacts or effects of differing severity? What are some examples of industries that may be impacted?

**Reading:** Center for Integrative Environmental Research. *Executive Summary The US Economic Impacts of Climate Change and the Costs of Inaction.* October 2007. [Executive Summary-Economic Impacts of Climate Change](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/macdonaldecon2505sping2017/files/2014/09/Executive-Summary-Economic-Impacts-of-Climate-Change.pdf)

1. Discuss the positive and negative economic and environmental impacts of tourism. **A)** Define what sustainable tourism is. What are some of its characteristics? **B)** Discuss one tourism destination that has begun to address the negative aspects of tourism.

**Source:** Guest lecture on sustainable tourism by Prof. S. Phillip (Hospitality Management)

1. What is conservation psychology? A) Describe some examples (two or three) of research topics that conservation psychologists might engage in. B) Describe the Nike Case Study. What did the company do and what were its accomplishments? C) In what ways can this example be viewed as an environmental success? Please be specific in your answers.

**Source:** PowerPoint and Guest Lecture by Prof. A. Almond (Psychology – Social Science)

[Conservation Psychology](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/macdonaldecon2505sping2017/files/2015/04/Conservation-Psychology.pdf)