

Prof. Farber  
International Law & Economics  
Bocconi University  
May 27-29, 2019

This segment of the course focuses on the law and economics of international environmental problems. The primary focus will be climate change, simply because it is one of the most serious issues facing the world. The classes will provide an overview of the legal responses to climate change and consider how an economic perspective can inform policy choices.

There will be three days of classes. The readings will be available online. You can contact the instructor at [dfarber@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:dfarber@law.berkeley.edu).

The topics will be as follows:

**May 27. Introductions to climate change and to environmental economics.**

***Discussion Questions:***

1. How much certainty do we have about the existence, magnitude and pace of climate change?
2. How significant are areas of uncertainty for policymakers?
3. Are economic tools like taxes or tradable allowance superior to conventional regulations that set mandatory reduction amounts?
4. Does climate change violate the rights of future generations? Should countries that emitted larger amounts of carbon compensate countries that are harmed by climate change?

**May 28. The law & economics of climate change at the global level.**

***Discussion Questions:***

1. What are the practical obstacles to a global agreement setting mandatory carbon caps for all countries?
2. Is it a serious weakness that the key provisions of the Paris Agreement are not binding under international law?
3. What are the uncertainties about the social cost of carbon? Is this a useful concept?

4. To what extent should climate policy be based on economics as opposed to considerations of equity and intergenerational rights?

**May 29. The law & economics of national and regional climate action.**

***Discussion Questions***

1. What are the possible benefits if individual countries or even subnational units of government take the initiative to address climate change?
2. What are the possible downsides of such national or subnational efforts?
3. Does the Paris Agreement make national and subnational efforts more appealing or less so?
4. How should actors at all levels, from global to subnational, pursue climate policy differently given the election of Donald Trump?