

# EC1340 – Spring 2016

Take home midterm

Due 8:30am, March 26, 2016

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The object of this assignment is to use what you have learned in the course to assess the reasonableness/truthfulness of a claim made in the popular press about climate change or climate change policy.

A useful model for what I have in mind are the 'fact-checking' columns that now appear in some local papers, including the Providence journal. You can look at a few recent columns here: <http://www.politifact.com/rhode-island/>.

A little more specifically,

1. Find an article making a claim about the effects of climate change or climate policy. Here are two examples that struck me as good candidates:

- [http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew\\_Turner/ec1340/problems\\_and\\_exams/ProJo\\_Burrilville\\_Power\\_Plant\\_20151113.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/ec1340/problems_and_exams/ProJo_Burrilville_Power_Plant_20151113.pdf)
- [http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew\\_Turner/ec1340/problems\\_and\\_exams/NatGeo\\_Feb2015.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/ec1340/problems_and_exams/NatGeo_Feb2015.pdf)

They each make at least one claim about what is going to happen with climate change and/or the costs of this change. These claims can be assessed with what you have learned in the course, plus, maybe some independent research.

2. After you choose an article/claim to evaluate, check with me to make sure it is OK.
3. Write a 'fact checking' article for the article/claim you select. It should probably not need to be more than two pages long. Try to use a lot of the numbers we've developed in class.
4. Prepare a short presentation, 5-10 minutes, on your topic for class on March 16. You are welcome to bring handouts if you want. If you want to use slides, please get them in .pdf format and email them to me by 5pm the day before.