

EES 205 Sustainable Energy and the Environment - Online

Fall 2009 Syllabus

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IMPORTANT - Special Requirements for this Online Course: Students who have signed up for this online EES 205 course need to be aware that there are strict requirements in at least two areas, as described in the next two sections below. Conscientious students with pretty good technology should have no trouble completing this course and earning a good grade, but even they should look at these special requirements. Students who have had trouble in the past getting to classes or staying organized enough to complete assignments on time should probably not enroll in this very structured online course!

Course Activities - First of all, there will be frequent interactive quizzes that must be completed during an availability period of about five days per quiz. For each section of the material, you must spend at least an hour or two reading, viewing video materials, and taking notes. When you are ready, you must take a one-hour quiz on that section's material. The sections will usually overlap each other by a day or two, which means that throughout the class, **you must complete and submit an assessment twice a week, about every three or four days!** You will probably not be able to do the course in just one day per week – you will most likely need to have at least two work sessions each week. Since each assessment will be available for nearly a week, **there will be no make-ups for any reason.** If you miss a quiz deadline for *any* reason, you will have a zero for that quiz, no exceptions! Each of the 17 quizzes is worth approximately 2 points toward your final grade, but since even the most conscientious student might miss a quiz or two due to technical difficulties or a personal issue, **I will drop the two lowest quiz grades** for all students. I will not drop the lowest score for the four exams and four discussions, so don't miss any of them. (Keep in mind that the Exams cover the same material as the quizzes, so skipping a quiz on purpose may mean that you will not be prepared for one or more of the questions on the module exam, because you will not see your graded quiz.)

Technical Requirements – If you have never taken an online course using WebCT, or if you have taken one but have used all of the tools we use in this course, you need to be sure that you can get all of the tools and resources to work for you. You should probably not attempt this class unless you will have a broadband Internet connection (DSL or Cable Internet, no dial-up modems) that is reliable, with only rare outages or connection problems. **You will need broadband**, because if you have a small “pipeline” to the Internet, you may be unable to make some of the material work correctly (or at all), such as pop-up videos and web-based PowerPoint shows. **Your Internet connection needs to be reliable**, because if you get disconnected during a quiz, you will probably be unable to go back and finish it, and I may not be available at that particular time to help you out before the quiz deadline. You will also **need a decent computer** that is fairly new, with sufficient RAM for your operating system and for the WebCT applications. WebCT uses the Blackboard software environment, which means that everything in the course is web-based from servers located in Hartford, with Java applets (small programs) doing the actual work on your computer. **Your computer should be up-dated**, or better yet, have Microsoft Update installed and working on your computer. WebCT will give you some guidance when you log in, checking to make sure you have the latest version of Java and have some settings set correctly. I will give you additional guidance on getting the latest version of Flash, Adobe Reader, and other necessities so that you can use all the resources in the course. If you are unsure about some of this, you can make arrangements with CIT in the library to bring them your laptop and have them check it out. Macintosh computers do work in this course, but tend to have more technical problems than PC's, and I will be unable to advise you how to solve some of these problems, since I must use a PC.

Reference Text: Energy, Environment and Climate by Richard Wolfson, 2009, W.W. Norton and Company. You will need this book by about the second week of the course to avoid missing some of the reading material. In a pinch, there is a copy of the book in the Reserve Section of the library, but it can only be used in the library. If you choose to save money and go without the book, you will miss some important readings, and will be unable to properly answer a number of the quiz questions, which might reduce your overall course grade by perhaps 4 to 10 points.

Math: You will need a **simple calculator** for calculations. This is a science course, and math is the language of science. Understanding the true enormity of our current and future energy (and global warming) issues can be done better by looking at actual numbers. If you are math phobic, this might be a challenge for you, but no student will fail this course because of math difficulties, as long as they are showing good effort and are completing the quizzes, exams, and discussions.

Course Outline: Exact schedule of day-to-day of activities will be shown in the online Course Calendar.

Aug 31 - Sept 20	<i>Sustainability Module (includes 3 quizzes, one exam, and an online discussion)</i>
Sept 20 – Oct 11	<i>Electric Power Module (includes 5 quizzes, one exam, and an online discussion)</i>
Oct 11 – Nov 15	<i>Transportation Module (includes 6 quizzes, one exam, and an online discussion)</i>
Nov 15 – Dec 18	<i>Future Options Module (includes 3 quizzes, one exam, and an online discussion)</i>
Dec 6 – Dec 18	Final Project

Final Grade Factors in per cent (points out of 100):

Section Quizzes – 35% Exams – 35% Discussions – 15% Final Project – 15%

Course Materials: You will need to read material from the WebCT course pages, from PDF's that you will access from the course pages, from the reference text book, and from outside web sites. You will also need to watch and take notes from video lectures that you will access from the WebCT course pages. Course material is presented in sections, with a new section becoming available every two days, with a day of overlap between sections. Each section's learning is assessed using an online, interactive quiz that you can take at anytime during the availability period of three days.

Quizzes and Exams: The assessment quiz for each section is made available at the same time as the section material. The interactive quizzes are accessed directly from the WebCT course pages, and include a mix of multiple choice, short answer, calculation, and essay questions. Assessments are timed, and must be done by a defined due date. **There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.** An interactive exam must be taken at the end of each of the four modules, covering all of that module's material.

Discussions – Ongoing online discussions will take place during each module, simultaneous to the module's activities shown in the Course Outline above.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need accommodations for this course must contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at 465-5573, who will inform the instructor.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as one's own, including during online assessments. This would include presenting other students' work as your own, or copying material from a book, magazine, newspaper, website, or other medium. Helping another student plagiarize is also cheating. Cheating or plagiarism could lead to course failure and expulsion from school, per the Statement on Campus Rights and Responsibilities.