

# EES 205 Sustainable Energy and the Environment - Online

## Spring 2010 Syllabus – rev. 1

Instructor: Emile Levasseur    email: levasseure@easternct.edu    EES Phone 465-4317

**IMPORTANT - Special Requirements for this Online Course:** Students signing 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 sub-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 class or completing assignments on time should probably not enroll in this **very structured** online course!

### **Special Requirement #1 – The Organization and Self-Discipline to meet frequent deadlines -**

There will be frequent online interactive quizzes that must be completed during an availability period of about five days per quiz. To prepare, you must spend at least an hour or two reading content materials, viewing videos, and taking notes. When you are ready, you must then take the one-hour quiz on that section's material. Each new section will usually overlap the prior section by a day or two, which means that **you must complete two activities each week, about one every three or four days!** You will have some scheduling flexibility due to the overlap, but you will probably not be able to do the course in just one day per week – you will most likely need to plan for 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 do miss a quiz deadline, you will score a zero for that quiz, with no exceptions! Each of the 21 quizzes is worth approximately 3 points toward your final grade, but since even the most conscientious student might miss a quiz or two due to technical difficulties, schedule conflicts, or personal issues, **I will drop the two lowest quiz grades for all students.** I will not drop any scores for the four discussions, so don't miss any of them. Keep in mind that the Final Exam covers the same material as the quizzes, so skipping a quiz on purpose will mean that you might have to prepare for the Final Exam without a graded version of the quiz that you skipped.

**Special Requirement #2 - Technical Requirements** – If you have never taken a WebCT online course that used the same tools and resources we'll use in this course, then you should verify that your equipment will handle it. You should not attempt this class unless you will have a **broadband Internet connection** (campus network, DSL, or Cable Internet; no dial-up modems), one that is reliable, with only rare outages or connection problems. With a small dial-up "pipeline" to the Internet, you may be unable to use some of the resources, 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 or exam, you will probably be unable to go back and finish it, and I will probably not be reachable at that particular moment to help you before the quiz deadline. You will also need a **decent, fairly new computer** with sufficient RAM for your operating system and for the WebCT applications. **Your computer should be up-dated**, and you may want to turn on Microsoft Automatic Update on your computer. WebCT uses the Blackboard software environment, which means that everything in the course is web-based, with Java applets (small programs) doing the actual work on your computer. WebCT can give you some guidance when you log in, checking to make sure you have the latest version of Java and other settings. I will give you some 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 (fourth floor of the library) to have them check your laptop for you. **Macintosh computers** do not always correctly display some of the resources in this course, and I am unable to advise you how to solve Mac problems, since I must use a PC. CIT is a good resource for students when solving technical issues for both Mac's and PC's.

**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, which can only be used in the library. If you are unable to buy the book, and can't get to the library to look at the reserve copy, you will miss some important readings, and you will be unable to properly answer a number of the quiz questions. This might reduce your overall course grade by perhaps 3 to 7 points.

**Math:** You will need a **simple calculator**. This is a science course, and math is the language of science. Understanding the true enormity of our current and future energy (and climate change) issues can be better done by looking at actual numbers. If you are challenged by math, you can still do pretty well in this course, as long as you show good effort and complete the quizzes, discussions, and exam.

**Course Outline:** An exact schedule of day-to-day activities will be shown in the Course Calendar tool.

Jan 25 – Feb 11	<i>Sustainability Module (includes 5 quizzes, and an online discussion)</i>
Feb 16 – Mar 19	<i>Electric Power Module (includes 7 quizzes, and an online discussion)</i>
Mar 29 – Apr 26	<i>Transportation Module (includes 8 quizzes, and an online discussion)</i>
Apr 25 – May 12	<i>Future Options Module (includes 5 quizzes, and an online discussion)</i>
May 16 – May 22	<b>Final Exam</b>

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

Section Quizzes – 60%

Discussions – 15%

Final Exam – 25%

**Course Materials:** You will need to read material from the Blackboard course web 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 course pages. Course materials are presented in sections, with a new section becoming available every three or four days, overlapping the prior section by a day or two. Each section's learning is assessed using an online, interactive quiz that you can take at anytime during that section's availability period.

**Quizzes and Exam:** The quiz assessment 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 mixture of multiple choice, short answer, calculation, and short essay questions. Quizzes are timed, and must be done within an hour. There will be an additional quiz in each module based on the discussion. The Final Exam will be two hours long. **There are no make-ups for missed quizzes and discussions.**

**Discussions** – An online discussion will take place during a five-day period, toward the end of each module. Students must submit an original post and two responses at any time during that period.

**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, including: other students' work; material copied from a book, magazine, newspaper, website, or other medium; or even material copied directly from the course materials. 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.

**Academic Services Center:** Tutoring, advising, and other help is available at the ASC, located on the ground floor of the library. Call 465-4272 or check the ASC website at <http://www.easternct.edu/asc/>.