

# EES 205 Sustainable Energy and the Environment - Online

## Spring 2010 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!

**Special Requirement #1 - Course Activities** - There will be frequent 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 take the 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 course, **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 score a zero for that quiz, with 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 either 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 four 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 be able to see your graded quiz.)

**Special Requirement #2 - Technical Requirements** – If you have never taken an online course through WebCT, or have taken one but have not used all of the tools used 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. To clarify, **you will need broadband**, because if you have a small “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 may not be available at that particular time to help you out 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. 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 Automatic Update 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 correctly set up. 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 I may be unable to advise you how to solve Mac problems, since I must use a PC. CIT is a good resource for some students with technical issues.

**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, and can't get to the library regularly, 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.

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|-----------------|---|
| Jan 25 – Feb 11 | <i>Sustainability Module (includes 3 quizzes, an online discussion, and one exam)</i> |
| Feb 16 – Mar 19 | <i>Electric Power Module (includes 5 quizzes, an online discussion, and one exam)</i> |
| Mar 29 – Apr 26 | <i>Transportation Module (includes 6 quizzes, an online discussion, and one exam)</i> |
| Apr 25 – May 22 | <i>Future Options Module (includes 3 quizzes, an online discussion, and one exam)</i> |
| May 8 – May 17  | <b>Final Project</b>  |

**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 three or four 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. Quiz or exam online assessments are timed, and must be done by a defined due date. An interactive exam must be taken at the end of each of the four modules, covering all of that module's material, which is from three to six sections. **There are no make-ups for missed quizzes, exams, or discussions.**

**Discussions** – An online discussion will take place during a five-day period, just before taking each module exam. Students can post an original entry 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 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.