
BUILDING OUR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ISEM 301 (SPRING 2019)

Instructors:

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The class will meet twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday in **McClure Hall 209 from 5:00 to 6:15 PM**, over the course of five weeks (Jan 29 – Feb 28).

COURSE SYNOPSIS

This course will cultivate working knowledge of the current energy and environmental situation and will engage students in policy review/formation surrounding the local, regional, national and global level. This will involve opportunities to interact with energy experts, and sustainability experts from regional industries.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course will promote a 360° view of the connection between energy production, energy utilization, environment, and social as well as political behaviors. Students will learn about the status of current energy supply and demand, why energy plays such an important role in modern society, and how personal as well as collective action (through implicit or explicit energy policies) will determine the energy landscape that will be inherited in the future. Students will also analyze current energy policy impact on the environment and examine how stakeholder attitudes/actions influence energy policy effectiveness. Against this backdrop, student teams will propose or refine energy policy recommendations (within a specific state/region) and then explore how these recommendations could unfold over the next decade in changes associated with energy investment, energy supply, energy usage, and environmental impact. There will be a field trip to the campus energy plant. Near end of the course, one or more regional energy experts will be invited to interact with student project teams in an energy fair poster session. Existing energy policy literature will serve as the reference materials used in the class. These include the University of Idaho Climate Action Plan, Idaho Energy Primer, and EIA Annual Energy Outlook.

SEMINAR FORMAT

The students are expected to read/prepare recommended materials before coming to class. The class will consist of mini-lectures that address elements of energy policy at local, regional, national and global levels followed by critical thinking questions for small group discussion. The students are expected to report the group discussion outcomes in BbLearn. Towards the end of the course, students will form teams to critique existing energy policy of a chosen state and add value to existing policy by incorporating their learnings from this class.

TEXT AND SUPPLIES

No designated text book. Reference material will be provided via BbLearn and students are required to read as well as reflect on this material before coming to classes.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Active and regular participation is necessary. Students are expected to read handouts ahead of class and to bring your questions to discuss in the class.

- 1/29: Getting to Know Survey Due, Course Overview, Energy Basics, Components of energy policy, Current US energy policy.
- 1/31: Energy and environment
- 2/5: Energy security and sustainability
- 2/7: Energy and economic development
- 2/12: Assign Project Teams, Literature Searching Strategies, Suggested References, Literature review plan
PROJECT - 10+ years from now for your assigned state: (1) forecast energy demand, (2) energy source mix, (3) environmental/cost impact, and (4) energy policies needed to realize this scenario
- 2/14: Green Building Design and Project overview
- 2/19: Project Consulting w/Teams & Field Trip to IRIC building
- 2/21: Field trip to Steam Plant
- 2/26: Energy Fair/Poster Session
- 2/28: Lessons Learned from Energy Fair, Course Assessment, Requirements for Final Exam/Reflective Essay

GRADING:

Homework/Class participation*	30 %
Team Project	35%
Final Exam/Reflective Essay	35%

*Student attendance is expected in all classes. Get participation points by taking part in class, BbLearn discussions, and timely submission of homework assignments.

Disability Support Services Reasonable Accommodations Statement:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. Please notify your instructor(s) during the first week of class regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306.