

GEOG 3443G – Energy and Power Course Outline: Winter 2023 (Dec 12 draft)

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information



| | Delivery Mode | Day/Time | Location |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| Lecture | In-person | Mon 2:30-4:20 | SSC 1004 |
| Lab | In-person | Thurs 10:30-11:20 | SSC 1004 |

| Classes Start | Spring Reading Week | Classes End | Study day(s) | Exam Period |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| January 9 | February 18-26 | April 10 | April 11 & 12 | April 13-30 |

January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course

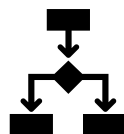
March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



| Course Instructor | Email | Office | Office Hours |
|----------------------|--|----------|-------------------|
| Dr. Carol Hunsberger | chunsber@uwo.ca | SSC 2409 | Thurs 11:30-12:30 |

2. Calendar Description

This course investigates the political ecology of energy. Issues of politics and power, social equity, and environmental impact are examined through Canadian and international case studies. The concept of ‘energy justice’ is used both to critically assess current patterns of energy production and use and to explore more sustainable possibilities (0.5 course).



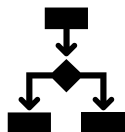
Prerequisite: Third or fourth year standing at the University. Senate regulation: “Prerequisite checking is the student’s responsibility. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

3. Readings



All resources will be posted in OWL.

4. Format



- The course involves **in-person lectures and tutorials** supplemented by readings, individual and group work, and assignments.
- Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures, tutorials and readings.
- Lectures will involve discussions and other activities.
- Some tutorials involve whole-class activities; others are work sessions for the mock hearings.
- Students are expected to come to class having reviewed all assigned materials and ready to participate.
- All course material will be posted to [OWL](#). Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and announced to the class.
- [Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, click [here](#).
- For assistance, students can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) (phone: 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800).

5. Learning Outcomes



Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the features and theoretical foundations of ‘energy justice’;
- Apply an energy justice framework to critically assess the impacts of different energy sources (e.g. oil, coal, nuclear, wind, solar, hydro, biofuels) and specific energy projects;
- Grapple with how to reconcile diverse values and priorities in decision-making; and
- Express well-supported arguments about how energy systems could better address social and environmental justice challenges, orally and in writing.

6. Course Content and Schedule

| Week | Dates | Lecture Topic | Tutorial | Due dates |
|------|--------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Jan 9 | Global energy systems | Set up hearings | |
| 2 | Jan 16 | *Theories of justice | Justice activity | |
| 3 | Jan 23 | *Energy access | Prep day | |
| 4 | Jan 30 | Hearing 1: SSC 9420 | Follow-up day | Stakeholders (Mon) |
| 5 | Feb 6 | *Process fairness | Judgment day | Panel, media (Thurs) |
| 6 | Feb 13 | *Recognition issues | Prep day | Proposal (Mon) |
| | Feb 20 | Reading Week: No class or tutorial | | |
| 7 | Feb 27 | Hearing 2: SSC 9420 | Follow-up day | Stakeholders (Mon) |
| 8 | Mar 6 | *Temporal equity | Judgment day | Panel, media (Thurs) |
| 9 | Mar 13 | *Environmental responsibility | Prep day | |
| 10 | Mar 20 | Hearing 3: SSC 9420 | Follow-up day | Stakeholders (Mon) |
| 11 | Mar 27 | *Energy alternatives (film) | Judgment day | Panel, media (Thurs) |
| 12 | Apr 3 | *Obstacles to change | Share your paper | |
| 13 | Apr 10 | *Acting on the climate crisis | No tutorial | Final paper (Mon) |

*On these weeks, students are asked to post discussion questions before class (see Evaluation below)

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site regularly.
- Students are responsible for checking their UWO e-mail address in a timely manner.
- Post course-related questions to the OWL discussion forum so everyone can see the answers.
- Instructor emails will be monitored daily. Students can expect a response within 24 hours Monday-Friday and within 48 hours on the weekend.
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their TA. To ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.

8. Evaluation

Grades will be allocated based on the following tasks. Exact due dates for the mock hearings will depend which role you are assigned for each hearing. We will sort out these assignments in the second week of class.

| Assessment | Format | Weight | Due Date |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Mock hearing: Stakeholder role | Presentation and paper | 30% | See schedule |
| Mock hearing: Panel role | Written report | 10% | See schedule |
| Mock hearing: Journalist role | Video or audio project | 20% | See schedule |
| Discussion questions | Forum post | 10% | Most weeks |
| Paper proposal | Written assignment | 10% | Feb 13 |
| Final paper | Written paper | 20% | Apr 10 |

These evaluation methods are essential requirements for the course.

Mock hearings

Throughout the term there will be three mock energy board hearings during class, each concerning a different proposed energy project. The class will be split into three roles:

- 1) Stakeholders making submissions to the panel;
- 2) Panelists evaluating whether or not the project should proceed;
- 3) Members of the media covering the issue.

Each student will play each role once. **Attendance is mandatory on the dates of the hearings and associated work sessions.**

Stakeholders will be evaluated individually based on a written submission (20%) and an oral presentation (10%). Panelists will be evaluated as a group based on a written report (10%). Journalists will be evaluated in pairs based on a video or audio project (20%). Detailed are provided in a separate file.

Research paper (10% proposal + 20% final report = 30% total)

Students will write an individual research paper, broken into two parts. The first part is a proposal outlining key arguments and providing an annotated bibliography (10%). The second step is the full paper (20%). More detailed instructions are provided in a separate file.

Discussion questions (10%)

On weeks when we do not have hearings, students are asked to post 2-3 discussion questions in the OWL Forum based on the week's assigned readings. Discussion questions are due at **11:55pm the night before class** and are expected to critically engage with the readings.



Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| A+ | 90-100 | One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
| A | 80-89 | Superior work which is clearly above average |
| B | 70-79 | Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
| C | 60-69 | Competent work, meeting requirements |
| D | 50-59 | Fair work, minimally acceptable |
| F | below 50 | Fail |

Submission policy and late policy

- Assignments should be submitted online through OWL, on or before the due date.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified.
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below).
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin up to the due date.
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator and to reach out within 7 days.
- Late assessments without accommodation will be subject to a late penalty of 5%/day.
- Late assessments with accommodation must be submitted by the new deadline agreed with the instructor.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

9. Accommodation Policies

Accessible Education (formerly SSD) provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, to ensure fairness and consistency, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities. Where medical documentation is required, the student must submit it to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office. A student seeking accommodation for work worth less than 10% need not provide medical documentation, but must contact the instructor.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10. Use of Electronic Devices

To enhance student engagement and learning I propose a **laptop-free classroom** during lectures. Lecture slides (with blanks to be filled in) will be posted on OWL before class. Please do bring your laptop to tutorials as you may need to do online research or writing.

11. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered online, probably synchronously (via Zoom) at the times shown in the timetable. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

12. [Information on COVID-19](#)

Masking Guidelines

Students are expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students unable to wear a mask must seek accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation. Students unwilling to wear a mask will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students are not permitted to eat in class to ensure masks stay in place (drinks are permitted).

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments require formal [academic considerations](#) (see section 9). Students who show a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

13. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#). The most common offence is failure to cite properly. If you draw on someone else's ideas, you must cite the source!

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University. All papers submitted for checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting

plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](#).

14. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives to provide accessibility to faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also contact Accessible Education at 519-661-2147 for any questions regarding an accommodation. More information about [Accessibility at Western](#) is available.

15. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources at Western to assist you. Visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for information on mental health resources.

16. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)

[Student Development Centre](#)

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, recently or in the past, please consult these [support services for survivors](#), including emergency contacts.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, contact support@uwo.ca.