

GEOG 3443G – Energy and Power Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2025

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 6	February 17-23	April 4	April 5 & 6	April 7-30

January 14, 2025: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 17, 2025: Family Day

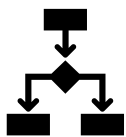
March 31, 2025: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Carol Hunsberger	chunsber@uwo.ca	Thurs 12-1 or by appointment

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."

2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, 0.5 course

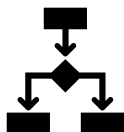
3. Readings



All readings and other course materials will be made accessible through OWL.

4. Course Objectives and Format

- The course involves **in-person lectures and tutorials** supplemented by readings, individual and group work, and assignments.
- 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 read all assigned materials and ready to participate.
- All course material will be posted to [OWL Brightspace](#). Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and announced to the class.
- OWL Brightspace supports current versions of all popular browsers (e.g. Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Edge); update your browser frequently. JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.
- Students can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace 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:

- Discuss and debate key social, environmental, and political aspects of energy systems;
- 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 6	Energy and society	Set up hearings	
2	Jan 13	*Theories of justice	Justice activity	
3	Jan 20	Energy landscapes	Prep day	
4	Jan 27	Hearing 1	Follow-up day	Stakeholders (Mon)
5	Feb 3	*Energy poverty	Judgment day	Panel, media (Tues)
6	Feb 10	*Energy consumption	Prep day	Proposal (Mon)
	Feb 17	Reading Week: No class or tutorial		
7	Feb 24	Hearing 2	Follow-up day	Stakeholders (Mon)
8	Mar 3	*Conflicts	Judgment day	Panel, media (Tues)
9	Mar 10	*Energy securities	Prep day	
10	Mar 17	Hearing 3	Follow-up day	Stakeholders (Mon)
11	Mar 24	*Film	No tutorial	Panel, media (Tues)
12	Mar 31	*Past transitions	Judgment day	
13	Apr 7	*Future transitions	Share final projects	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 Brightspace site and UWO email regularly.
- 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.

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 10
Final paper	Written paper	20%	Apr 7

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 instructions 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. Your top five question posts will be counted.

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 or valid self-attestation will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day.
- Late assessments with accommodation or valid self-attestation must be submitted by the new deadline agreed with the instructor.

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

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

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which 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](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations is described [here](#). Any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, consistent with the information in this course outline.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#).

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Instructors may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation, described below. Supporting documentation for

academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Course Assessment that Requires Supporting Documentation: Stakeholder presentation

This assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be asked to deliver the presentation in class as soon as they are able.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to complete course work due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the date.

10. 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.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such 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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

11. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all 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 if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

12. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

13. 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), here is [information about support services for survivors](#), including emergency contacts.

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

14. Important Dates

Monday January 6: Classes resume

Tuesday January 14: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 17: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 17-23: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Friday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course

Friday April 4: Classes end

April 5 and 6: Study days

April 7-30: Examination Period