ENV 462H1:  
Energy and Environment:  
Economics, Politics, and Sustainability

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:  
This is an interdisciplinary course that examines key ideas in economics, politics and security that are essential to understanding energy and environmental issues. The course will cover energy markets, energy security, and the increasing role that sustainability plays in setting policies.

The pursuit of energy has fundamentally shaped human civilization. It has led to great progress, but it could also profoundly change our environment. This course will focus on the central ideas in economics, politics and security that are essential to understanding today’s complex energy and environmental decisions.

The interdisciplinary nature of energy issues calls for a ‘big ideas’ approach to both energy teaching and research. This course will begin by suggesting ten ‘big ideas’ that are fundamental to understanding energy issues and that will help to form a thematic framework for course material. The course will then cover energy markets – their successes and failures, and outline basic remedies for the latter. It will discuss how energy security has shaped world politics in the 20th and 21st centuries. It will then proceed to a discussion of regulatory institutions, their design, efficiency and efficacy. The importance of resources and energy in shaping Canada’s past, present and future will also be discussed. Whatever the specialization of the student, this course will seek to instill a search for connections with other disciplines, as well as the development of a broad perspective on understanding energy issues.

INSTRUCTOR:  
Adonis Yatchew, Economics, 150 St. George Street (Max Gluskin Building), Room 278  
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LOCATION AND TIME:  
Winter (S) term. Lecture 2-4 PM Tuesday, Galbraith 404.

EVALUATION:  
Evaluation for this course consists of a research paper worth 60%, and two tests (Tuesday February 12, 2019 and Tuesday April 2, 2019), each worth 20%. The only generally acceptable reason for missing an exam or term test is illness. A medical certificate is required.

Research paper: Outline, which is worth 10 out of the 60 marks allocated to the paper, is due Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Please submit the outline electronically as an attachment and name the file using your name. For example, my outline would be “YatchewOutline.doc” or “YatchewOutline.pdf”. Please put “ENV 462 Outline” in the subject line of your email. Your outline must contain the following: a thesis statement, a bibliography, an outline of the structure of the paper, and your preliminary conclusions. The outline should be about two
pages in length. The final paper is due Tuesday April 9, 2019. Late penalties of 10% per day will apply. The target length should be about 3000 words, not including tables, graphs and bibliography. Longer papers are perfectly acceptable. There should be an abstract not exceeding 200 words on the title page. Use a citation format with which you are familiar (APA, Chicago...). Please submit the paper electronically through Quercus in pdf or Word format.

Readings

Required:

Recommended:

Additional Resources:

IN THE NEWS

Students will follow current issues in energy by signing up for news alerts (e.g., through Google Alerts). Subscribe to MIT Energy Initiatives updates by visiting http://mitei.mit.edu/about/contact. Each class will begin with a brief discussion of the week’s developments in energy. Students should regularly visit MIT Technology Review http://www.technologyreview.com/ to review advances in energy. For insightful commentary on a range of issues, some related to energy, please sign up for the weekly briefing from Project Syndicate http://www.project-syndicate.org/.

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1 In some cases Kindle editions are available and considerably less costly than hardcopy. You do not need a Kindle device as Kindle books can be read on Macs and PCs.

Yatchew ENV 462
LECTURE TOPICS and READINGS

1. Ten Big Ideas
2. Background and Introduction
   a. Muller – Chapters 1-6
   c. Sachs – Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6
3. Politics, Economics, Security and Regulation
   c. Muller, Section V. “Advice for Future Presidents”
4. Alternative Energy
   a. Muller – Chapters 7-19
   b. Sachs – Chapter 12
5. Energy Policy
   a. Energy Policy, Canadian Encyclopedia
   b. Energy in Society, Canadian Encyclopedia
ACCESSIBILITY
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a
disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course
materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: email
disability.services@utoronto.ca or consult http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to
ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student’s
individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and
plagiarism very seriously. Submissions may be processed through plagiarism software. The
University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that
constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.
(www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). Potential offences include, but
are not limited to:
In papers and assignments:
1. Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the
   instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
On tests and exams:
1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else’s answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.
In academic work:
1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not
   limited to) doctor’s notes.
All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined
in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns you are
expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from
other institutional resources (see www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/
resourcesforstudents.html).