

**ENV 350H Energy Policy and Environment
Fall 2017 Course Syllabus
University of Toronto, School of the Environment**

Time: Monday, 6-8 p.m.

Location: LM 159

Office Hours: Mondays, 5-6 p.m. in ES 2104

Instructor: Keith Stewart <climatekeith@gmail.com>

T.A.: For Engineering Students: Christian Ches <c.ches@utoronto.ca>
For Arts students: Maria Mitra <Maribeth.Mitri@mail.utoronto.ca>

Pre-requisite: (ENV221H1,ENV222H1) or permission of Academic Associate Director

Description

This course explores the connections between energy and environment policy and politics, including the connections with climate change.

The patterns of energy use of individual countries and of the global system as a whole reflect the accumulation of policy choices and have significant impacts on the environment, locally and globally. Not the least of these impacts is the potential to disrupt the global climate system. Decisions about energy technologies are strongly influenced by social organization, economics and politics.

The first part of the course provides a historical context for the physical, environmental, technological, economic and political aspects of energy systems and energy transitions before exploring the principal policy tools available to decision-makers. This includes both a more traditional academic approach to energy and environmental policy-making found in the textbook written by Andrea Olive, as well as a more radical critique found in Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*.

These theoretical approaches are then applied to two contemporary case studies: the politics of pipelines and the development of a national climate plan.

The final part of the course explores how "disruptive" political (Donald Trump) and technological (renewable energy) change creates new opportunities and challenges for the policy community.

The objective of this course is that students should be able to apply the theoretical concepts learned in the course to current policy-making processes. Therefore students should follow the public and media debates on the case studies in addition to the required readings.

Assignments

Additional detail on each of the assignments will provided in class.

Blog entries (2 blogs, each worth 15%): As blogs are an increasingly important forum for policy discussion, you will be required to write a blog entry (between 800 and 1000 words) and upload it to Blackboard in order to practice this style of writing. Posts should be written as a commentary on a news story and must be relevant to the subject of energy and environmental policy. You should incorporate concepts from the course materials in a way that

demonstrates your grasp of the concept and ability to apply it to current events and debates. You should advance a point of view backed by evidence (i.e. it is not simply your opinion) while maintaining a thoughtful and respectful tone.

Blogs can be submitted at any point, the first must be completed no later than October 16 and the second blog must be completed no later than November 13. Blogs will be posted on Blackboard.

Blog commentary (10%): As it is difficult to engage all students in class discussion in a large lecture setting, we will be moving some of this discussion on-line by having students comment on each other's blogs. You should feel free to agree with your colleagues and offer further evidence or examples, or to challenge them and offer alternative analysis or explanation. In either case, the tone should be thoughtful and respectful, with the intent of furthering the discussion rather than scoring debating points or engaging in personal attacks. Students will not be graded on their individual comments, but the class as a whole will receive a grade based on the quality of the online discussion.

Mid-term test (20%): To be administered in-class on **November 20**.

Essay (40%): The major paper will involve an analysis of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. You will be expected to show that you can apply the concepts studied in the course to this case. You will also be expected to demonstrate that you have researched this topic beyond what is presented in class or in the required readings. Additional guidance will be given prior to the mid-term break.

The essay should be handed in via Blackboard and is due on **December 4**.

Evaluation criteria:

The primary criteria used in evaluating written work are the following:

- 1) **Mechanics:** Your work must be completely free of grammatical errors, spelling errors or major factual errors. References can be in any style but the same format must be used consistently and they must be accurate.
- 2) **Writing style:** Your papers should be written in a clear and unambiguous style which assists, rather than impedes, communication with the reader.
- 3) **Structure:** Your written work should have a clear focus, provided by the research question, and a structure which logically flows from that focus.
- 4) **Precision and accuracy:** Precision means saying exactly and specifically what you mean, avoiding ambiguity and vague generalities. Accuracy refers to absence of major factual errors.
- 5) **Analysis:** Your analysis should display understanding of the topic and, based on that understanding, originality of thought.

Late assignments

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 2.5%/day (i.e. an assignment 10 days late will lose 25% off of the assigned grade, so a grade of 7.5/10 would become 5/10).

Required readings

The two textbooks (*The Canadian Environment in Political Context* and *This Changes Everything*) are available at the bookstore. All of the other required readings are available electronically via Blackboard or via the links in the course syllabus.

Students are expected to follow the public and media debates on the case studies in addition to the readings identified below. The course instructor (@climatekeith on twitter) will also tweet relevant material, using the hashtag #env350. Students are welcome to tweet using this hashtag as well.

September 11: Introduction to Environmental Policy and Politics

No required readings

Recommended Reading:

Andrea Olive (2016). *The Canadian Environment in Political Context*. University of Toronto Press. Chapter One: The Canadian Environment, pp. 1 – 26.

September 18: Energy Transitions

Required:

Bruce Podobnik (2006). Chapter 1: "Global Energy Shifts in World Historical Perspective." *Global Energy Shifts: Fostering Sustainability in a Turbulent Age*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. pp. 1-17.

International Energy Agency (2017). "Executive Summary." [Energy Technology Perspectives 2017: Catalysing Energy Technology Transformations](#). International Energy Agency.

David Roberts (June 27, 2017). "[Exxon's support for a carbon tax is the first step in big oil's long, negotiated surrender](#)". Blog post on Vox.com.

Recommended:

International Energy Agency (2016), [World Energy Outlook 2016](#). International Energy Agency.

Daniel Rosenbloom and James Meadowcroft (2014). "The Journey towards decarbonization: Exploring socio-technical transitions in the electricity sector in the province of Ontario (1885-2013) and potential low-carbon pathways." *Energy Policy*. Vol. 65, pp. 670-679.

September 25: Politics and Institutions

Required:

Andrea Olive (2016). *The Canadian Environment in Political Context*. University of Toronto Press. Chapter 2: Canadian Politics and Institutions, pp. 27 – 52.

Monica Gattinger (2009). "Multi-level Energy Regulatory Governance in the Canadian Federation: Institutions, Regimes and Coordination" in Burkard Eberlein and G. Bruce Doern (eds.), *Governing the Energy Challenge: Canada and Germany in a Multilevel Regional and Global Context*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press).

Naomi Klein (2014). *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate*. Alfred A. Knopf Canada. Introduction, pp 1-28.

Recommended:

Environment and Climate Change Canada (November 2015). [Environment Canada Briefing Book](#). Parts 1 – 4.

Kathryn Harrison (2013). "Federalism and Climate Policy Innovation: A Critical Reassessment". *Canadian Public Policy*. Vol. 39.

October 2: Policy-making

Required:

Andrea Olive (2016). *The Canadian Environment in Political Context*. University of Toronto Press. Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 53 – 98.

Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway (2010). *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*. Bloomsbury Press. Introduction and Chapter 6, pp. 1-9 and 169-215.

Natural Resources Canada (November 2015). [Minister of Natural Resources Welcome Package](#). Natural Resources Canada.

October 9: No Class due to Thanksgiving

October 16: Policy Options - Carbon Prices

Required:

Working Group on Carbon Pricing Mechanisms (2016). [Working Group on Carbon Pricing Mechanisms: Final Report](#). Environment and Climate Change Canada, pp. 1 – 50.

Chris Ragan et al (April 2015). [The Way Forward: A Practical Approach to Reducing Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). EcoFiscal Commission, pp. i – iv.

Mark Jaccard (February 2, 2016). "Want an effective climate policy? Heed the evidence". *Policy Options*.

Recommended

Remainder of EcoFiscal Commission report.

October 23: Policy Options - Regulations

Andrea Olive (2016). *The Canadian Environment in Political Context*. University of Toronto Press. Chapter 8, pp. 177 – 202.

Specific Mitigation Opportunities Working Group (2016). [Specific Mitigation Opportunities Working Group Final Report](#). Environment and Climate Change Canada, pp. 5 - 38, 48 – 84.

October 30: Policy Options – Change the system, not the climate?

Naomi Klein (2014). *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate*. Alfred A. Knopf Canada. Part 1, pp 31 – 187.

Joe Oliver (June/July 2013). "Dispelling the Myths about Canada's Energy Future". *Policy: Canadian Politics and Public Policy*. Vol. 1, No. 2.

November 6: Reading week so no class

November 13: Indigenous People, Environment and Energy

Andrea Olive (2016). *The Canadian Environment in Political Context*. University of Toronto Press. Chapter 9, pp. 203 - 230.

JFK Law Corporation (2012). [Beaver Lake Cree Nation Amended Statement of Claim](#).

November 20: Pipeline Politics

George Hoberg (2013). "The Battle over Oil Sands Access to Tidewater: A Political Risk Analysis of Pipeline Alternatives". *Canadian Public Policy*. Vol. 39, No. 3.

Naomi Klein (2014). *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate*. Alfred A. Knopf Canada. Chapters 9 – 11, pp. 293 - 387.

Kevin Lynch and Karen Miske (June/July 2013). "An Unconventional Energy Revolution". *Policy: Canadian Politics and Public Policy*. Vol. 1, No. 2.

November 27: Disruptive Technology – Renewable Energy and Smart Grids

Ontario Smart Grid Forum (July 2015). [Smart grid-related innovation: the emerging debate](#).

Forest Small and Lisa Frantzis (2010). "Executive Summary". *The 21st Century Electric Utility: Positioning for a Low-Carbon Future*. Report Commissioned by CERES from Navigant Consulting.

Peter Kind (2013). *Disruptive Challenges: Financial Implications and Strategic Responses to a Changing Retail Electric Business*. Edison Electric Institute.

December 4: Disruptive Politics – Donald Trump and the Rise of the New Right

Required:

Keith Stewart (February 9, 2017). "[Could Trump Derail Canada's Climate Plan?](#)" *Policy Options*.

Naomi Klein (2014). *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate*. Alfred A. Knopf Canada. Chapters 12-13 and Conclusion.

Recommended:

Naomi Klein (2017). *No is Not Enough: Resisting the New Shock Politics and Winning the World we Need*. Knopf Canada.

Accessibility Needs:

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:

accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

You can get further guidance on academic integrity at:

www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students

Cases of suspected plagiarism will be addressed in accordance with the procedure established by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.