

# ENV362H1S L0101

## Energy and Environment: Transitions in History

Winter 2023

This course will take a historical perspective on energy technologies, focusing on periods when there was significant change in the available technologies and in the organization and exploitation of energy resources. The emphasis will be on the contexts that gave rise to these changes (cultural, economic, political, environmental), as well as on the consequences of these changes for interactions within and between human communities and their environments. The transformative effects of the adoption of fossil fuel technologies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be given due prominence, but attention will also be paid to longer-term issues of food and fuel production and processing, and to changes in transport and storage. The chronological scope of the course will therefore include the emergence of agricultural communities and the development of territorial states and empires as well as more recent developments.

**Class time and location:**      Tuesdays, 12 noon – 2pm                      ES B149

**Tutorials:**                              T0101: Tuesdays 2pm -3pm                      KP113

   T0201: Tuesdays 3pm – 4pm                      KP113

(note that tutorials start in the second week of term: the first tutorials will meet on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January).

**At the end of this course, students should be able to:**

- **Show understanding** of energy transitions in history.
- **explain** how changes in energy technologies led to changes in past human societies and their environments, and what factors affected the adoption and use of new energy technologies.
- **compare** the effects of energy transitions in different social contexts
- **reflect** on the possible implications for Canadians of the current energy transitions.

**Instructor:**                      **Ben Akrigg** (Classics)

Office: Room LI117, 125 Queens Park

email: [ben.akkigg@utoronto.ca](mailto:ben.akkigg@utoronto.ca) I shall do my best, but cannot promise, to answer email enquiries within 24 hours. I shall not answer email enquiries over the weekend, however.

Office hours: **Monday 9am to 11am** (If this time is not possible for you, please email me to arrange an appointment at a different time.).

<b>Course Assessment:</b>	Mid-term test	30%
	Final Assessment	40%
	Tutorial attendance & participation	15%
	Weekly assignments	15%

**Some further notes on course requirements:**

- **Readings.** Reading in preparation for each session will be provided on Quercus.
- **Tutorials.**
  - Attendance at tutorials is required. There will be three possible marks for participation in each tutorial: 10 (present and contributes effectively to discussion, and/or participates fully in other tutorial activities); 7 (present, but does not contribute effectively to discussion, or take full part in activities); and 0 (absent).
  - **Note that there will be no tutorials in the first week of term (10th January).**
- Each week there be a **short written assignment** to be completed in advance and **handed in on paper at the start of the week's lecture class**. Details of each assignment will be provided in class a week in advance (so we will talk about the first assignment in the first lecture class), but typically you will be asked to write about 200 words/half a page in response to an aspect of the set reading. There will be three possible marks for these assignments. If your response shows evidence of careful reading of the set text(s) and organized thought about it, you will receive full credit (10). If you hand in something, but it is clearly half-hearted and put together in a rush, you will get half-credit (5). Obviously if you fail to hand anything in you will get no credit (0).
- There will be one mid-term **test**, which will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.
  - The test will cover the material from the preceding five weeks of the course, including assigned readings and class slides and handouts, and will require both short answers and a small number of longer answers (similar in length and scope to the weekly written assignments).
  - Students who miss the test will receive a mark of zero for the test.
    - However, if the test was missed for reasons entirely beyond your control you should, within one week of the test if at all possible, submit to the instructor a written request for special consideration explaining your

reason for missing the test. If your reason for missing the test is acceptable, then you will be able to take a make-up test.

- The **final assessment** will be a summative, untimed, online assessment to be completed during the Final Assessment Period (11<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April). You will have seven days to complete the assessment exercise. The assessment will require you to write a small number of short (1-2 pages) essays.

## **Class schedule:**

**Week 1      10<sup>th</sup> January      Introduction: The Scope of the Course**  
Note: No tutorials this week.

**Week 2      17<sup>th</sup> January      Environmental History and Energy Humanities**

**Week 3      24<sup>th</sup> January      Energy Technologies before Steam: Food**

**Week 4      31<sup>st</sup> January      Energy Technologies before Steam: Transport**

**Week 5      7<sup>th</sup> February      Energy Technologies before Steam: War**

**Week 6      14<sup>th</sup> February      MIDTERM**  
Note: No tutorials this week, either.

**READING WEEK is February 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 7      28<sup>th</sup> February      Globalizations and Modernity**

**Week 8      7<sup>th</sup> March      Agriculture and Industry**

**Week 9      14<sup>th</sup> March      Coal and Democracy**  
(Note that Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March is the last day to cancel S courses without academic penalty)

**Week 10      21<sup>st</sup> March      Histories of Women and Energy**

**Week 11      28<sup>th</sup> March      Energy History and the Postcolonial**

**Week 12      4<sup>th</sup> April      Review and Reflection: The Current Energy Transition  
in Historical Perspective.**

*(Final Assessment Period begins Tuesday 11th April, runs to Friday 28th April).*

## **Finally, information on some important issues, in no particular order:**

### **Academic Integrity**

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Do not hesitate to speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, please see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>

### **Religious Accommodations**

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. I shall make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

### **Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) by visiting <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

### **Accommodation for Personal Reasons**

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or accommodation. They may be able to provide you with a College Registrar's letter of support to give to your instructors, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

### **Quercus Info**

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or "card" for ENV362H1S Energy & Environment: Transitions in History. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the ENV362H1S link to open our course area, view the latest announcements and access your course resources. There are Quercus help guides for students that you can access by clicking on the "?" icon in the left side column. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

### **Lecture Capture by Instructor**

Where lecture recordings are provided, they are only for the exclusive use of enrolled students, for their personal learning. Lecture recordings are not to be shared in any way beyond enrolled students.

### **Privacy/FIPPA Statement**

Personal information is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971 and at all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please note that this course requires presentations of one's work to the group. For more information, please refer to <http://www.utoronto.ca/privacy>.

## **Mental Health and Well-being**

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation, financial concerns, family worries and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. Everyone feels stressed now and then – it is a normal part of university life. Some days are better than others, and there is no wrong time to reach out. There are resources for every situation and every level of stress.

There are many helpful resources available through your College Registrar or through Student Life (<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca> and <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>). An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources.

## **Course Materials, including lecture notes**

Course materials are provided for the exclusive use of enrolled students. Do not share them with others. I do not want to discover that a student has put any of my materials into the public domain, has sold my materials, or has given my materials to a person or company that is using them to earn money. The University will support me in asserting and pursuing my rights, and my copyrights, in such matters.

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.