This course examines sustainable energy policy and governance with a focus on western Canada. It focuses on the question of how policies and institutions should be changed to pursue a more sustainable energy path. It develops the argument that our current energy path is unsustainable, and that a shift to a more sustainable path is impossible without significant policy intervention. We examine the policy tools available for promoting this transition, and the governing structures and processes for selecting and implementing those tools.

The course contains three sections. First, it will analyze energy as a policy problem, focusing on demand, supply, and environmental constraints. The global and Canadian energy context will be surveyed briefly. Second, the governance framework for energy policy will be explored by examining alternative policy instruments, the division of powers, and the National Energy Plan and its aftermath. The remainder of the course focuses on prominent issues in Western Canadian energy policy:

- the oil sands, including the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline to take oil sands products to Asian and US markets;
- filling the electricity supply gap in BC, including planning for the contingency of major new investments in liquefied natural gas, and the relative contributions of conservation and energy efficiency and renewables.

The course will provide students a substantive understanding of energy policy in the context of policy analysis and Canadian politics. Specific learning objectives include:
- A basic understanding of regional, national, and global energy systems
- Concepts of energy sustainability
- Alternative policy instruments relevant to energy policy
- Governing institutions for Western Canadian energy policy
- Interests, resources, and strategies of energy policy actors
- Multiple criteria analysis
- Environmental assessment
- Attributes of energy alternatives

Course website: UBC Connect

Required Materials:

There is no textbook to purchase for the course, but there will be a package of required course readings available for sale from the bookstore. Many of the required course readings are available on the internet through the “syllabus” tab on the course website.

You will need an i-clicker for this course, available from the bookstore (new or used).

Student will be assessed as follows:

- midterm exam (20%) February 13
- simulation of multistakeholder consultation on an energy controversy (30%)
- final exam (50%)

Description of Simulations

Students will be required to participate in one of several simulations of multistakeholder consultations on a major western energy policy controversy: designing a Canadian energy strategy (March 24), developing a regional plan for BC natural gas development (March 25), or renewing the Columbia River Treaty (March 27). Each student will be assigned to an interest group or government agency involved in the case. Full details are available on the website.

The simulation accounts for 30% of your grade, components of which have been allocated and designed to stimulate both effective group and individual effort:

- 10% for the group brief submitted March 20 not to exceed 2000 words. This is a group project, which clearly and concisely presents the group’s initial position on how to revise the rules. It should contain references.
- 10% for each student’s participation in the group. This grade will be based predominately on the recommendations for grades that students provide of each other.
• 10% for the performance of each group in the consultation, to be held in the evening (5 to 9) in the week of March 24.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings (supplementary readings for your voluntary enrichment and are NOT required for course):

Schedule as of January 6, 2014—Subject to Change with Notice

Part I: Overview – Energy as Policy Problem

January 7 Course Overview: Cases and Framework for Analysis


January 9, 14, 16: The Energy System – Global and Canadian Perspectives


Part II: Governance Framework

January 21 Political Institutions


January 23, 28 Policy Actors and Legacies

Andrew Nikiforuk, “Oh, Canada: How America's friendly northern neighbor became a rogue, reckless petrostate.” Foreign Policy July 1, 2013 http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/06/24/oh_canada#sthash.AAVQoAxe.dpbs

Supplemental

January 30 Policy Instruments


Part III: Western Canadian Energy Policy

February 4, 6, 11 Oil Sands

Jaccard, Sustainable Fossil Fuels, pp. 210-15 (on-line through UBC library)
Pembina Institute, Understanding the impacts of oilsands production, Backgrounder, January 2013, http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/oilsands-key-facts-backgrounder-201301.pdf

Supplemental

February 13 – Midterm Examination
February 18, 20 – Midterm Break

February 25, 27 - Environmental Assessment and Energy Pipelines: The Enbridge Northern Gateway Case


*Supplemental*


March 4, 6 Natural Gas – Unconventional and Liquefied


One other TBA on BC LNG policy

*Supplemental*


March 11, 13 Hydropower in BC

Review BC Hydro IRP from January 7

George Hoberg and Ian Rowland, “Green Energy Politics in Canada: Comparing Electricity Policies in BC and Ontario,” work in progress, (skim Ontario sections)

Supplemental

March 18 Conservation and Efficiency

Jaccard, *Sustainable Fossil Fuels*, pp. 79-100 (on-line through UBC library)
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/12/20/101220fa_fact_owen#ixzz19YP8aqX5

March 20 Renewables (non-hydro)


March 25, 27, April 1 Nuclear Power Reconsidered

John Deutch et al, Update of the MIT 2003 Future of Nuclear Power,
*TBA on nuclear policy post-Fukushima

Supplemental

April 3, 8 Conclusion

Jaccard, *Sustainable Fossil Fuels*, review pp. 210-15 (on-line through UBC library)
Ezra Markowitz and Azim Shariff, “Climate Change and Moral Judgement,” *Nature Climate Change* vol 2 (April 2012)