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## ECO 414S/1960S: Energy and Regulation Winter 2025

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has underscored the role of energy in geopolitics. Prior to this, the Covid-19 pandemic had significant impacts on energy markets and on global supply chains. Throughout, climate change continues to be a most pressing issue with little evidence of progress. This course provides a general treatment of the economics of energy markets and the use of regulation in addressing environmental and other issues arising in these markets. A central theme is the search for an appropriate balance between market forces and regulatory/government intervention. A related objective is the development of a framework for understanding the public discourse on energy, the environment and geopolitics. Familiarity with tools of microeconomics and statistics is essential. Topics include renewable energy and storage, electricity markets, global warming, carbon pricing, hydrocarbons (oil, natural gas, coal) and fracking, the politics and geopolitics of energy. Issues currently in the news are an integral part of the course.

### EVALUATION:

Midterm	30%	Monday, February 10, 2025 in class
Assignment	40%	Sunday, March 23, 2025 by 11:59 PM
Exam	30%	Exam Period

**Late penalties** on assignments will be 10% per day (e.g., if the submission is worth 100 marks, the daily penalty will be 10 marks).

### 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://energy.mit.edu/news/>. Classes will usually 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, visit Project Syndicate which is available through our library system through <https://login.library.utoronto.ca/index.php?url=https://www.project-syndicate.org/>. You will also be required to read assigned articles in the [Washington Post](#), the [BBC](#) and the [New York Times](#) and other media. Through our library system you have access to an extensive [database](#) of many international newspapers.

### COURSE MATERIALS

Richard Muller, *Energy for Future Presidents, The Science Behind the Headlines*, Norton 2012.

### LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

1. Background and Introduction
  - a. Yatchew, A. 2014: "Economics of Energy: Big Ideas for the Non-Economist", *Energy Research and Social Science*, 1:1, 74-82.
  - b. Muller, Parts I, II

## 2. Geopolitics, Politics and Regulation

- a. Muller, Part V Advice for Future Presidents.
- b. Amy Myers Jaffe, *Energy's Digital Future*, Chapter 3, China's Energy Strategy
- c. Bordoff, F. and Meghan L. O'Sullivan, "Green Upheaval: The New Geopolitics of Energy", *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2022
- d. Bordoff, F. and Meghan L. O'Sullivan, "The Age of Energy Insecurity: How the Fight for Resources Is Upending Geopolitics", *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2023.

## 3. Global Warming and Other Externalities

- a. Robert Stavins, "The Problem of the Commons: Still Unsettled After 100 Years", *American Economic Review*, 2011, 81-108.
- b. Brander, J. A., and Taylor, M. S. "The Simple Economics of Easter Island: A Ricardo–Malthus model of renewable resource use." *Am. Econ. Rev.* 1998, 88(1), 119–138.
- c. Nordhaus, William, "The Climate Club: How to Fix a Failing Global Effort", *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2020.
- d. Wolfram, C. (2024, December 18). *Putting a price on carbon* [Audio podcast]. MIT Energy Initiative. Retrieved from <https://energy.mit.edu/podcast/putting-a-price-on-carbon/>
- e. Yatchew, A. 2016, "Rational vs. 'Feel-Good' Carbon Policy – Transferability, Subsidiarity and Separation" *Energy Regulation Quarterly*, 4:3, 31-40.
- f. Olivier Blanchard, Christian Gollier, Jean Tirole, "The Portfolio of Economic Policies Needed to Fight Climate Change", *Annual Review of Economics* 2023 15:1, 689-722, <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-economics-051520-015113>
- g. Erickson, A. S., & Collins, G. (April 13, 2021). Competition with China can save the planet: Pressure, not partnership, will spur progress on climate change. *Foreign Aff.*, 100, 136.
- h. Geall, S., Peters, R., Tsang, B., Erickson, A., & Collins, G. (July 23, 2021). Can America trust China to fight climate change? *Foreign Affairs*. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2021-07-23/can-america-trust-china-fight-climate-change>

## 4. Electricity, Renewables and Regulation

- a. Muller, Part III
- a. MIT Energy Initiative, "Utility of the Future", 2016, Executive Summary, <http://energy.mit.edu/research/utility-future-study/>.
- b. Yatchew, A. 2019, "How Scalability is Transforming Energy Industries" *Energy Regulation Quarterly*, 7:2, 35-44.
- c. Richard Green and Adonis Yatchew 2012: "Support Schemes for Renewable Energy: An Economic Analysis", *Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy*, 1, 83-98.
- d. Scott P. Burger, Jesse D. Jenkins, Carlos Batlle, Ignacio J. Pérez-Arriaga 2019 "Restructuring Revisited Part 1: Competition in Electricity Distribution Systems" *The Energy Journal*, 40: 3, 31-54.
- e. Scott P. Burger, Jesse D. Jenkins, Carlos Batlle, Ignacio J. Pérez-Arriaga 2019 "Restructuring Revisited Part 2: Coordination in Electricity Distribution Systems" *The Energy Journal*, 40: 3, 55-76.
- f. Olmstead, D.E.H. and A. Yatchew, 2022, "Carbon Pricing and Alberta's Energy-Only Electricity Market", *Electricity Journal*, 35:4, May 2022.
- g. Incentive Regulation, An Overview (notes/slides)

## 5. Oil, Natural Gas and Coal

- a. Bill McKibben, "Why Not Frack?", *New York Review of Books*, March 8, 2012. Reply by John Deutch, *New York Review of Books*, April 26, 2012.

- b. James Hamilton, "Historical Oil Shocks," in Routledge Handbook of Major Events in Economic History, pp. 239-265, edited by Randall E. Parker and Robert Whaples, New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 2013.
- c. Lutz Kilian L. (2015) Energy Price Shocks. In: Palgrave Macmillan (eds) The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics. Palgrave Macmillan, London. [https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-349-95121-5\\_3008-1](https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-349-95121-5_3008-1)
- d. Yatchew, A. and J.A. No, 2001: "Household Gasoline Demand in Canada", *Econometrica*, 1697-1710.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES, SOURCES AND READINGS

1. *Encyclopedia of Energy*, ed. Cutler Cleveland. Available electronically through UofT Libraries.
2. Carol Dahl, *International Energy Markets*, PennWell, 2004, updated edition 2015.
3. International Energy Agency <http://www.iea.org> Most recent documents are available electronically through the University of Toronto Libraries. *Energy Statistics Manual, Electricity Information, IEA Statistics, Key World Energy Statistics*.
4. Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. Energy and Carbon Flow Charts <https://energy.llnl.gov/>
5. International Energy Agency, energy flow charts <https://www.iea.org/Sankey/>
6. International Energy Agency, most recent documents are available electronically through the University of Toronto Libraries. See also <http://www.iea.org/>
7. International Energy Forum <https://www.ief.org/>
8. Canada Energy Regulator: <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/index-eng.html> (formerly the National Energy Board).
9. BP (formerly British Petroleum) <https://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html> Statistical Review of World Energy, see also the Statistical Review of World Energy Data (Excel spreadsheet). Both of these are now published by the Energy Institute <https://www.energyinst.org/statistical-review>.
10. World Resources Institute – GHG gas data, slide presentation, papers, annual "Stories to Watch"
11. Freedom House <https://freedomhouse.org/> -- annual country reports and Freedom House map <https://freedomhouse.org/explore-the-map?type=fiw&year=2022>.
12. Reporters Without Borders <https://rsf.org/en/index>
13. Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/>
14. Amnesty International <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
15. Vaclav Smil, *Energy and Civilization: A History*, 2017, MIT Press. Chronology of Energy-Related Developments
16. MIT Energy Initiative conducts research and posts reports on a broad range of topics. See <http://energy.mit.edu/studies-reports/>.
17. Daniel Yergin, *The Quest*, The Penguin Press, 2011. Hardcopy, Kindle and Audible versions available.
18. Daniel Yergin, *The New Map: Energy, Climate and the Clash of Nations*, Penguin Press, 2020. (Available electronically through UofT Libraries.)
19. Our World in Data <https://ourworldindata.org/>
20. Penn World Table <https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/productivity/pwt/?lang=en>
21. Bruce Usher, *Renewable Energy: A Primer for the Twenty-First Century*, Columbia University Press, 2019. Available electronically through University of Toronto libraries. Also, hardcopy and Kindle version available.

**Academic Integrity:** You are reminded that plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offences with potentially serious penalties. Plagiarism detection tools will be used on submitted work, including

assignments, tests, exams and papers. The purpose is to check for textual similarity and to detect possible plagiarism. 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](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm)). See also "Academic Integrity" link on the right side of the course Quercus page.

"Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site <https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>."

<https://teaching.utoronto.ca/resources/plagiarism-detection/#conditions>

The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment is prohibited may be considered an academic offense in this course.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, 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 A&S Student Academic Integrity (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>) and the University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity (<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>).

**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) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. 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.

**Missed Evaluations and Illness:** The only generally acceptable reason for missing a term test/exam/assignment is illness. Although makeup tests/exams are typically offered, they may have a different structure than the originally scheduled test. Normally, a medical certificate is required under such circumstances. In present circumstances we will abide by University policies which may not require such certificates. You are required to report your expected absence prior to the evaluation.

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can

be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

**Recordings:** In the event that one or more classes are online, efforts will be made to record the session, including your participation, on video and whenever possible, will be made available to students in the course for viewing remotely. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor." <https://teaching.utoronto.ca/resources/recording-of-lectures-and-class-sessions/>