Public Policy 290 - Energy and Development

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Energy and Resources Group & Goldman School of Public Policy

Mondays, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, 355 Goldman School

This course is offered as either:
Public Policy 290 P019 (CC# 77265), or
Energy and Resources 290 P 004 (CC# 27765)

Course WWW page http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~kammen/er290/

Overview
This graduate seminar will examine the relationship between development theory and practices it has shaped decisions about energy resources and technologies over the past 40 years. A focus will be on rural and decentralized energy use, and the issues of technology, culture, and politics that are raised by both current trajectories, and potential alternatives. We will explore the frequently divergent ideas about energy and development that have emerged from civil society, academia, multinational development agencies, and national development plans in order to investigate the differing perspectives currently envisioned for sustainable energy futures.

The seminar will explore the theories of energy infrastructure, the energy driver of development, 'appropriate technology', and cultural and political aspects of energy services, socioeconomic, and environmental impacts. Specific themes in the class will include gender and energy, renewable energy alternatives, risk management and transfer, the emergence of decentralized energy options, and the role of energy and environmental linkages.

What the seminar will not do:
- Provide a fully comprehensive introduction to economic or social theories of development. An introductory course in development theory or practice is required.
- ER100 and at least one course in development economics or development theory are required prerequisites.

What the seminar will provide:
- A history of ideas about energy and development.
- An opportunity to examine and critique small-scale and decentralized energy planning practices at the household, village, and regional level.
- Consideration of the differences between energy consumption and energy services.
- Examination of energy options in the face of changing views on development, economic and social models, and the environment.
- A comparison of the differential access and uses of energy seen across gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. We will explore energy as a resource for infrastructure development in the context of development theory.
- Exposure to a range of detailed cases to illustrate the theoretical and policy approaches studied.

The class will provide a forum for the development of original written material that problematizes current hypotheses, and, ideally, presents alternative theories. The primary written assignment of the course – the final paper – is intended as an opportunity to make original contributions to the energy, development and society literature or policy debate(s).

**Prerequisites:**
ER100 “Energy and Society” or equivalent, and at least one development course are required. A partial list of qualifying courses includes: Geography 35, 130, 214, 215, or 244; Political Science 226; Agricultural and Resource Economics 101, ESPM 165, 166, or 167.

The course is limited to 15.

**The Readings:**
This course will require significant weekly reading, an average of one book per week. Please be aware that in order to create an environment for in depth class discussion on the weekly themes, these readings are mandatory. **Student will turn in a 1 – 2 page critique or comment/question stemming from the reading the day before class each week. These questions will be circulated to the class prior to the seminar.**

Each week the required readings are listed, as well as a selection of ‘Resource Readings’ that you may want to explore for further information, or as material for possible papers. Resource readings will be available in a file in the ERG reading room (323 Barrows Hall).

Readings available on line are indicated with a URL address.

Readings that will be either emailed to the class, or available on the course URL site are indicated with a [E] or [W], respectively.

A variety of journal articles are available online at Energyinfo.net, URL [http://www.energyinfo.net](http://www.energyinfo.net).

Some material will be distributed as a photocopy [P].

**Assignments:**
Each student is required to submit the day before class [on Sunday] a comment, issue, or short list of questions based on the reading. These ‘talking points’ will be emailed to the student set to
lead the discussion that week for compilation into a single document. That file will be distributed to class participants for the next day’s class. To make this work, your comments are due by 6:00 PM, Sunday evening. Do not send your comments to the whole class – just the weekly group leader.

**Final Paper:**
This paper (roughly 30 pages) can be an exploration of a specific policy debate, including an analysis leading to a recommended course of action, or it can focus on a particular issue or failing of sustainable development or resource management. The format of this paper is flexible, and based on the goals of the student could take the form of a research paper or proposal, a policy memo, or a thesis chapter. In any case, the focus is on the connection between issues in energy, environment and development, and the theoretical or practical basis for relevant decision making or management.
## Schedule of Classes

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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Introduction: Energy &amp; Development in Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Overview of Outcomes: What the Energy &amp; Development Nexus Delivered</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>The Founding Mentality, Setting the Stage for Five Decades of Development?</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>The Mindset at Work</td>
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<td>Technology Transfer</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Appropriate Technology Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Theories of Energy and Gender</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Household Energy – A Reprieve, Of Sorts</td>
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<td>Household Energy – the Promise and Politics of PV</td>
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<td>Households and Communities: Local Resources (Biomass) and Development</td>
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<td>New Institutions: National and Multinational</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>What is Development About, Anyway?</td>
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Required Texts:


**Week 1**
**Introduction: Energy & Development in Theory and Practice**

August 25

No readings.

**Week 2**
**No Class – Labor Day Holiday**

September 1

**Week 3**
**Overview of Outcomes: What the Energy & Development Nexus Delivered**

September 8

You have two weeks, so read these carefully. These readings are illustrative of the prevailing institutional views of energy resources for development.


- World Energy Council
  [W] [http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/](http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/)

- World Energy Council (2000) *Energy for Tomorrow’s World – Acting Now*
  Executive Summary

Read All the Items Listed in the ‘Contents’: The Energy Challenge; Developments Since 1993; The Environmental Agenda; The Three Energy Goals; Ten Policy Actions, and Acting Now.

- Examine at length the ESMAP website:

**Week 4**
**The Founding Mentality, Setting the Stage for Five Decades of Development?**

September 15


- As a reference, not for reading but for skimming, the Bretton Woods Agreements are archived at:
  [W] [http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/decade/decad047.htm](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/decade/decad047.htm)
• Ruttan, *Technology, Growth, and Development;* Part I: Productivity and Economic Growth

Optional Reading:


### Week 5  The Mindset at Work
September 22

• Albert Hirschman, *Development Projects Observed*

### Week 6  Technology Transfer
September 29

• Ruttan, *Technology, Growth, and Development;* Part II: Sources of Technical Change, focus on Chapter 5.

• *Methodological and Technological issues in Technology Transfer* (Cambridge University Press, 1999). Read, at minimum: Technical Summary; Chapter 1; Chapter 10; and 2 or more case studies. All material online at: [W] http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc/tectran/

### Week 7  Technology Transfer Under Siege
October 6

• Denis Goulet, *The Uncertain Promise*


Optional Reading:

Week 8  Rage Against the Machine  
October 13

- Bruce Rich, *Mortgaging the Earth*
- [E] Severino reply to Bruce Rich
- Bruce Rich's response to World Bank's critique of Mortgaging the Earth, Environmental Defense, May 10, 1994

Optional Readings:

A selection of the anti-World Bank literature

- *Planet Dialectics: Explorations in Environment and Development* by Wolfgang Sachs
- *Masters of Illusion the World Bank and the Poverty of Nations* by Catherine Caufield
- *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* by Margaret E. Keck, Kathryn Sikkink
- *The Case Against the Global Economy: And for a Turn Toward the Local* by Jerry Mander (Editor), Edward Goldsmith
- *50 Years Is Enough: The Case Against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund* by Kevin Danaher
- *The Ecologist* (each of you should read at least one issue; they are available in RAEL and extensively on the www)

The readings this week are intended to orient the class to some of the current debates and perceived opportunities for energy systems in the wider context of debates over development and the environment.


Week 9  Appropriate Technology Theory and Practice  
October 20

- Kevin Willoughby, *Technology Choice*
Optional Reading:

Spend some time online reading the material on Schumacher College, the Intermediate Technology Development Center, and ITPower, all of which are outgrowths of the Appropriate Technology movement.

- The portal for much of this material is:

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Read one of these:

- Ester Boserup *Woman’s Role in Economic Development*
  or
- Sharmila Bose, *Money, Energy and Welfare* [everyone must read Chapter 1 of Bose]

Optional Reading:


| Week 11 | Household Energy – A Reprieve, Of Sorts |
November 3

- Bessie Head, *When Rainclouds Gather*

Week 12  Household Energy – the Promise and Politics of PV  
November 10


Optional Readings:


Week 13  Households and Communities: Local Resources (Biomass) and Development  
November 17


Optional Readings:


Week 14  New Institutions: National and Multinational  
November 24

- Mark M. Turner and David Hulme *Governance, Administration, and Development*

- Several articles on new institutions will be distributed by email.
Week 15  What is Development About, Anyway?
December 1

- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*

Optional Reading:


Date modified: August 22, 2003