Form 2B

City University of Hong Kong
Information on a Course

offered by School of Energy and Environment
with effect from Semester B in 2013/2014

Part I

Course Title:	Environmental and Energy Policy
Course Code:	SEE6201
Course Duration:	One Semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	None
Precursors:	None
Equivalent Courses:	SEE8219 Environmental and Energy Policy
Exclusive Courses:	None

Part II

Course Aims

This course equips students to engage in well informed and rational debates on how to power our civilisation while protecting the biosphere. The first half of the course begins by positioning energy policy within the broader context of sustainable development and, consequently, helps cultivate an understanding of the problems and prospective solutions associated with fostering a transition away from carbon-intensive energy technologies, which consume finite resources. The second half of the course introduces students to the policy cycle and aims to develop applied awareness of the multi-faceted challenges that policymakers face in attempting to cobble together sustainable energy policy. The overall aim of the course is to cultivate a working understanding of the realities, issues, solutions and applied policy challenges that one faces when seeking to develop a sustainable energy policy.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Articulate environmental problems and resource limitations which impact energy use. Critically analyse the impact of energy use on the environment. This includes: 1. Introduction to environmental sustainability problems. 2. The carrying capacity of planet Earth 3. The implications of climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions.	20%
2.	Articulate personal and societal value considerations which impact energy supply and demand policies affecting people, plants and animals in different countries and of different generations.	10%
3.	Critically evaluate international policy efforts to address energy supply and climate changes issues. This includes an emphasis on the UNFCCC process and the Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanisms	10%
4.	Articulate challenges which emerge during the policy cycle and critically evaluate prospective solutions to these challenges. Stages of the policy cycle that will be covered include: 1. Policy agenda setting 2. Policy formulation 3. Policy implementation 4. Policy evaluation 5. Policy analysis	40%
5.	Demonstrate argumentative reasoning and critical thinking in interpersonal dialogues, oral presentations and short essays.	20%

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

In-class Activities:

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1 to 5	Interactive Lectures Interactive lectures are designed to facilitate application and synthesis of assigned readings.	2 hours per week in lectures.
CILO 1 to 5	Problem based learning Students will be put into groups and will be given problems to solve. During the course of the resolution process they will be encouraged to highlight areas of further knowledge that they would need to seek.	1 hour per week in lectures.

Outside of class Activities:

CILO No.	TLAs
CILO 1 to 5	Discussion board Students are asked to visit the discussion board each week and make at least one written contribution to the weekly discussion.
CILO 1 to 5	Group project Students will be assigned a topic and asked to design a project that will involve interaction with other class members.
CILO 1 to 5	Readings Readings will provide students with the knowledge base necessary to participate effectively in interactive lectures.

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1 to 5	Group project	20%	
CILO 1 to 5	Reading comprehension exams	20%	
CILO 1 to 5	Discussion board participation	20%	
CILO 1 to 5	Class Participation	10%	
CILO 1 to 5	End of course exam	30%	

Examination Duration: 2 hrs

Percentage of coursework, examination, etc.: 70% by coursework; 30% by exam

To pass a course, a student must do ALL of the following:

1) obtain at least 30% of the total marks allocated towards coursework;
2) obtain at least 30% of the total marks allocated towards final examination; and
3) meet the criteria listed in the section on Grading of Student Achievement.

Grading of Student Achievement:

The grading assesses the students' knowledge of the Subject Matter covered in CILO's 1 to 4 and their ability to communicate as set out in CILO5. It considers:

- Has the candidate addressed the question in the way demanded?
- Have they organised their thoughts clearly?
- Have they used their knowledge and opinions appropriately?
- Is their communication concise and compelling?

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definitions	Criteria
A+ A A-	4.3 4.0 3.7	Excellent:	Strong evidence of ability to describe an analyse the subject matter. Excellent answers with no significant weaknesses. ALL aspects of questions addressed and, where required, both sides of an issue are presented. Ideas are expressed in a clear and logical way with a compelling synthesis or conclusion. The communication is fluent with good use of vocabulary.
B+ B B-	3.3 3.0 2.7	Good:	Evidence of ability to decribe and analyse the subject matter. Good answers with few weaknesses. ALL aspects of questions addressed and, where required, both sides of an issue are presented. The argument is rational. The communication is reasonably fluent with appropriate use of vocabulary.
C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	Adequate:	Evidence of ability to describe the subject matter. Reasonably well-argued answers that address ALL aspects of the questions and, where required, both sides of an issue are presented. The argument is relatively rational. There may be some weakness in the force of the argument or the coherence of the ideas, or some aspect of the argument may have been overlooked. The communication is reasonably fluent with appropriate use of vocabulary.
D	1.0	Marginal:	Evidence of ability to describe some features of the subject matter. Answers address most of the components of questions and are arranged in a reasonably logical way. There may be significant elements of confusion in the argument. The candidate does not, where required, present both sides an issue. The communication is hesitant and not easy to follow at times.
F	-	Failure:	An answer judged to be irrelevant, trivial, unintelligible or missing.

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Part III

Keywords:

- The Earth System, Earth System Science, Energy; Fossil fuel; Carbon intensity of fossil fuels; Peak oil; Renewable energy, conventional energy, nuclear energy
- Resource depletion; Holocene, Anthropocene;
- Greenhouse gas; Radiative forcing; Aerosols; Albedo; Global Warming; Climate Change; Ocean acidification;
- Ecology;
- Energy efficiency;
- Kyoto Protocol; Clean Development Protocol; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, cap and trade
- The tragedy of the commons; Common but differentiated responsibility; Intergenerational equity; Intra-generational equity; Sustainable; The precautionary principle; Polluter pays principle.
- Agenda setting, policy formulation, implementation, policy evaluation, policy analysis
- Advocacy coalition, energy regimes, stakeholder networks
- Stabilzation wedges, policy instruments, nodality, authority, treasure, organization
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Energy supply, energy demand, portfolio management

Readings:

Copies of the required readings will be available via the Blackboard, the library or City University's databases. One of the core books for this course is available in e-book form from the library (http://lib.cityu.edu.hk/record=b4277488~S8). Library call number: HD9502.A2 Campbell, Kurt M., and Jonathon Price, eds. 2008. The Global Politics of Energy. USA: The Aspen Institute.

For more information on theory related to the public policy cycle see (copy available on reserve in the library): Howlett, Michael, M. Ramesh and Anthony Perl. 2009. *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems. 3rd edition*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0195428021

Other readings and journal articles will be assigned (see list of readings in the course syllabus)