Syllabus
ECON 4331-001: Energy Economics
Stephen F. Austin State University
Fall 2020

Dr. Rebecca Davis
Department of Economics and Finance
Nelson Rusche College of Business
Lectures: MW 2:30-3:45 & Zoom
Zoom Office Hours: MW 1:15-2:15, MW 4:00-5:00, T 10:00-1:00, T 2:00-5:00

E-mail: davisrj4@sfasu.edu
Phone: (936)-468-1828
Office: McGee Bus. Bldg. 303-F
Location: McGee Bus. Bldg. 324 & Zoom

COVID-19 Mask Policy:
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


Social Distancing Classroom Capacity & Learning:
This class completely fits into a socially distanced classroom. For those students that do not want to physically be in the classroom, the lecture will be available via Zoom during the regularly scheduled class time.

Remote Only Request:
If you prefer to never physically enter the classroom, you MUST submit a request to me via e-mail. Disclaimer: if you request learning the material through remote only access, you are responsible for covering all the material through lecture videos via Zoom and completing all assignments. Further, I will NOT prioritize remote only learners during my Zoom office hours.

Zoom Office Hours: All office hours will be held via Zoom meetings (https://sfasu.zoom.us/). If you would like to utilize the office hours listed on this syllabus, send an email to davisrj4@sfasu.edu that includes your requested date and time. You will receive a response from me with the Zoom meeting information.
Catalog Description:
An introduction to the economic analyses, fundamental issues, and possible solutions to the challenges of energy production and use. Prerequisite: ECON 2301 (previously ECO 231) and ECON 2302 (previously ECO 232).

Course Description:
This course will focus on both energy choices and the impact of these choices on market performance, environmental conditions, and sustainability. The main aim of this course is to provide students with the fundamental economic concepts for analyzing energy markets and the tools necessary to understand, evaluate, and critique policy using appropriate economic analysis.

Learning Objectives:
Students successfully completing this course should be able to:
1. Obtain basic knowledge of energy markets
2. Use quantitative, abstract, and logical reasoning
3. Acquire skills in the use of economic analysis using a variety of models
4. Utilize analytical thinking, critical analysis, logic, creativity, and integrative problem solving
5. Utilize a variety of economic models to determine economic efficiency, maximum social welfare, and sustainability
6. Evaluate energy policies and prescribe recommendations

Course Materials:

Our textbook can be purchased online via Routledge’s website found here: https://www.routledge.com/Energy-Economics-1st-Edition/Schwarz/p/book/9780415676786 in eBook ($78), paperback ($87), or hardback ($195). Or you can purchase the textbook via Amazon’s website found here: https://www.amazon.com/Economics-Routledge-Textbooks-Environmental-Agricultural/dp/0415676789 in paperback new condition ($67). We will be utilizing this textbook throughout the course with required readings.

You will need access to Microsoft Office 2016 on a PC. There are machines available in the Business Building. You will also need access to a reliable internet connection. SFA students have FREE access to Microsoft Office 2016 through Office 365: http://www.sfasu.edu/mysfa/o365/.

General Student Policies:

Program Learning Outcomes
Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf).

**Course Grades (University Policy 5.5)**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Room 325 in the Human Services Building, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4)**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf)). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/
inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Grading System:**
Your final grade for the course is based on the scale below.
A: 90% and above, B: 80%-89%, C: 70%-79%, D: 60%-69%, F: Less than 60%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>% of Class Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Presentation</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Cumulative)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1000</td>
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**Class Participation:**
All quizzes will be administered in D2L. There will be a quiz due at the beginning of each new chapter. Your average on these quizzes will determine your class participation grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Homework:**
Completing homework is vital to learning the material. These assignments provide feedback to you about your personal level of understanding as well as feedback to me about the overall level of understanding in the class. Students may work together on homework assignments, and I encourage you to do so. However, make sure you are doing your own work. It will matter come test time. No late homework assignments will be accepted. The lowest homework grade will be dropped; however, it can NOT be last homework assignment of the course.

**Research Project:**
You will pick from several (provided) topics that focus on current events in energy markets and write a research paper that investigates the phenomenon. This paper will require a detailed literature review on the topic as well as an explanation on the type of economic model (learned in this course) you would use to analyze the impacts of the energy decision.

**Project Presentation:**
Once you complete your research project, you will pick your favorite paper from the literature review and present the article to the class. The paper you present can NOT be the starting paper you are provided with. Each presentation will be between 7-9 minutes with 2-3 minutes for questions at the end. Further, you will be responsible for asking questions of your fellow classmates about their presentations.
Exams:
If you miss an exam with an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero for the exam.
Exams will only be excused if you promptly provide me verifiable evidence that the absence is excused based upon SFA policy (the absence was caused because of health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events).

The final exam is cumulative. The final exam will be held according to the official schedule: December 11, 2020 from 10:45-1:15.

Course Expectations:
• Be Prepared: Students are expected to read assigned material prior to class and to participate in class discussions and activities. If you have a question, never let it go unanswered.
• Be in Class: Consistent attendance is essential for acceptable performance in this course.
• Be Courteous: If you attend class, be on time and attend both physically and mentally. Spending class time on anything other than class material is harmful to the collective learning environment and will not be permitted. If you need to leave during class, please do so quietly.

Keys to Success/Points of Emphasis:
In my experience, there are three keys to success in this course: (1) participate in lecture and take notes in addition to those provided AND come to class each week, (2) do problems and then do more problems like the ones you struggled with, and (3) seek help/use additional resources when needed. You will have significant weekly reading assignments from a mandatory textbook and are also expected to complete regular homework assignments throughout the term, generally one for each chapter that is covered in the textbook. Additionally, small quizzes may be assigned during the term. Exam preparation, readings, assignments, and quiz activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work done outside of class each week.

Tentative Outline
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1: Introduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2: Energy, Markets, and Society</td>
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<td>Chapter 3: Static Efficiency: Applying Supply and Demand to Energy Markets</td>
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<td>Chapter 4: Dynamic Efficiency: Energy Decisions Over Time</td>
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<td>Chapter 5: Oil: There at the Creation of Energy Economics</td>
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<td>Chapter 6: Natural Gas: A New Golden Age?</td>
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<td>Chapter 7: Coal</td>
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<td>Chapter 8: Nuclear Energy</td>
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Chapters marked * will be covered as time allows. More detailed information in this regard will be provided as we progress through the semester.

**Schedule:**
Please keep an eye on the D2L/Brightspace schedule. I may need to make adjustments throughout the semester.

- **Week 1:** Chapter 1
- **Week 2:** Chapter 2
- **Week 3:** Chapter 3
- **Week 4:** Chapter 3 & 4
- **Week 5:** Chapter 4
- **Exam 1** – Wednesday, September 23rd
- **Week 6:** Chapter 4
- **Week 7:** Chapter 4 & 5
- **Week 8:** Chapter 5
- **Week 9:** Chapter 5 & 6
- **Week 10:** Chapter 6
- **Week 11:** Chapter 7
- **Exam 2** – Wednesday, November 4th
- **Week 12:** Chapter 7 & 8
- **Week 13:** Chapter 9 & 10
- **Week 14:** Thanksgiving Break
- **Week 15:** Presentations
- **Week 16:** Finals

**Disclaimer:**
I reserve the right to make changes and amendments to this syllabus through D2L announcements during the semester.