Dr. Rebecca Davis
Department of Economics and Finance
Nelson Rusche College of Business
Lectures: T/Tr 2:00-3:15
Office Hours: T/Tr 12:30-1:30 (online only),
T/Tr 3:30-4:30,
W 10:00-12:00 (online only),
W 12:00-4:00

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Office: McGee Bus. Bldg. 303-F
Location: McGee Bus. Bldg. 127

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) or 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 Amazon’s website found here:
https://www.amazon.com/Economics-Routledge-Textbooks-Environmental-Agricultural/dp/0415676789 in paperback used condition ($82). 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/](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 [http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp).

**Academic Integrity (10.4)**  
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity ([https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf)) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other
assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Student Conduct (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 Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity here: [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/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.

**Course Grades (5.5)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework 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. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.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), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources: The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby), www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents, 936.468.7249, dos@sfasu.edu; SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic (Human Services, Room 202), www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp, 936.468.1041; The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub” (corner of E. College and Raguet St.), To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers
comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit, Services include: Health Services, Counseling Services, Student Outreach and Support, Food Pantry, Wellness Coaching, Alcohol and Other Drug Education, www.sfasu.edu/thehub, 936.468.4008, thehub@sfasu.edu.

Crisis Resources: Burke 24-hour crisis line - 1.800.392.8343; National Suicide Crisis Prevention - 9-8-8; Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1.800.273.TALK (8255); johCrisis Text Line - Text HELLO to 741-741.

**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>
</tr>
</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 Paper</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project Presentation</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Cumulative)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**Research Project Paper:**
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.

**Research Project Presentation:**
Once you complete your research project, you will pick one 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:**
All exams are taken in class. Dates for each regular exam are the following: Exam 1 – Thursday, September 28th; Exam 2 – Thursday, November 16th.

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). If you miss an exam for an unforeseen reason, you should contact me as soon as physically possible. The final exam will be utilized to replace Exams 1-2 that are considered *excused absences*.

The final exam is cumulative. The final exam will be held according to the official schedule: December 12, 2023, from 1:00-3:00 pm.

**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 (asynchronous work) 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

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Energy, Markets, and Society

Chapter 3: Static Efficiency: Applying Supply and Demand to Energy Markets

Chapter 4: Dynamic Efficiency: Energy Decisions Over Time

Chapter 5: Oil: There at the Creation of Energy Economics

Chapter 6: Natural Gas: A New Golden Age?

Chapter 7: Coal

Chapter 8: Nuclear Energy

Chapter 9: Renewable Energy

Chapter 10: Next-Generation Alternatives

Chapter 17*: A Comprehensive Energy Policy

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Delivery</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Project: Read Starting Paper &amp; Write</td>
<td>9/8/23</td>
<td>D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch. 3A HW</td>
<td>9/15/23</td>
<td>Office Mailbox or D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch. 3B HW</td>
<td>9/22/23</td>
<td>Office Mailbox or D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>9/28/23</strong></td>
<td><strong>IN CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project: Outline, Read &amp; Summarize</td>
<td>10/6/23</td>
<td>D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch. 4 HW</td>
<td>10/13/23</td>
<td>Office Mailbox or D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project: Outline, Read &amp; Summarize</td>
<td>10/20/23</td>
<td>D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>After Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch. 5 HW</td>
<td>10/27/23</td>
<td>Office Mailbox or D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project: Rough Draft</td>
<td>11/3/23</td>
<td>D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch. 6 HW</td>
<td>11/10/23</td>
<td>Office Mailbox or D2L Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>11/16/23</strong></td>
<td><strong>IN CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project: Practice Presentation</td>
<td>11/17/23</td>
<td>D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch. 7&amp;8 HW</td>
<td>12/1/23</td>
<td>Office Mailbox or D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project: Final Presentations</td>
<td>12/5/23 &amp; 12/7/23</td>
<td>IN CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/12/23</strong></td>
<td><strong>1:00-3:00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project: Final Paper</td>
<td>12/14/23</td>
<td>D2L Dropbox</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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