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**Econ 5260/6260 Spring 2012 — Energy Policy**

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**1. Syllabus**

This syllabus is still under construction. Changes may still be made.

**Location:**

[Orson Spencer Hall (OSH)](http://www.map.utah.edu/index.jsp?find=54) room 111

**Time:**

Every Tuesday 6–9 pm. First class Jan 10, Spring Break Mar 13, last class April 24, 2012.

**Credit hours:**

3

**Enrollment:**

[5260](http://www.acs.utah.edu/uofu/stu/scheduling/crse-info?term=1124&subj=ECON&catno=5260) and [6260](http://www.acs.utah.edu/uofu/stu/scheduling/crse-info?term=1124&subj=ECON&catno=6260).

**URL:**

**This syllabus:**

<http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.html>, also linked from [Class Schedule](http://www.acs.utah.edu/uofu/stu/scheduling/?term=1124&dept=ECON&classtype=g).

**Hans's paragraph-by-paragraph notes about the textbook:**

<http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/GeriMcNabb2011EPUS.html>

**Canvas Link for this class:**

<https://learn-uu.uen.org/courses/105287/>

**Testing Center:**

<http://www.sa.utah.edu/testing/hours/test-proctoring-service.html> If you miss the in-class quizes, you can make them up in the Testing Center starting Wednesday morning until the next Tuesay evening 6 pm. Note that the deadline for the Canvas resubmissions is also Tuesday evening 6 pm, and that you must do the written test before the resubmission. Go to the Testing Center during their Proctoring hours and ask for the Econ 5260 test, make sure they give you the last one, for instance the Quiz on Feb 7, instead of an loder on. They charge $5.

**Unite Workspace:**

<https://www.unite.utah.edu/>. A more detailed link will be provided when the work space for the class is set up.

**Text Book:**

Laurance R Geri, David E McNabb. *Energy Policy in the US*, *Politics, Challenges, and the Prospects for Change*, 2011. Boca Raton, London, New York: CRC Press. <[Amazon](http://www.amazon.com/Energy-Policy-U-S-Challenges-Administration/dp/1439841896/)>.

**Instructor:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dr. Hans G. Ehrbar.

**Office hours:**

You are welcome to come by whenever Hans is in his office in [OSH](http://www.map.utah.edu/index.jsp?find=54) 363, or otherwise by appointment.

**Hans's best email:**

ehrbar@greenhouse.economics.utah.edu. This is the most reliable way to reach Hans, Hans checks this email regularly whenever he is on the computer.

**Hans's office phone:**

(801) 581 7797. Sometimes Hans forgets to check his voice mail box when he comes to his office.

**Hans's home phone:**

(801) 908 6937.

***1.1. Course Description***

**From** [**Course Catalog:**](http://www.acs.utah.edu/GenCatalog/crsdesc/econ.html#5260)

The class takes a critical look at energy policies in order to find out why renewable energies have not yet taken off in the USA, despite urgent need for them. It considers both sides in the debate between renewable portfolio standards and feed-in tariffs, and between carbon trading and carbon taxes. All forms of renewable energy will be discussed one by one, with special consideration of their availability in Utah: cost, environmental impact, other considerations, and policies appropriate with respect to that type of energy.

**Addendum for 2012:**

This time there will be outside speakers in most class sessions.

**Second Addendum for 2012:**

This time the class will closely but critically follow the text book **Energy Policy in the US** by Laurance R Geri and David E McNabb, CRC Press 2011. This book has a wealth of information about the many strands making up US energy policy which you will not find elsewhere compiled in one place. Unfortunately, despite its protestations of being objective, the book also often shamelessly glorifies the status quo. The authors say the book “describes the efforts that clear-headed and farsighted men and women in government, industry, and private life are taking to address the interrelated issues of energy, climate change, and public policy.” Hans will try to show in class that US energy policy is somewhere between a trainwreck, corporate welfare, and a crime against humanity, and that it is a joke to call it “farsighted.” Therefore there will be a certain tension between what you hear in class and the interpretations you read in the book mixed in with the many factual items the book has to offer. I hope this will kindle the discussion in class, immunize you against the sweet-talk of corporate lobbyists, and overall make for an interesting class from which we all can learn.

***1.2. Purpose***

Climate change, ocean stresses, and the overuse of the earth's resources present enormous historic challenges to everyone living today. The economics profession has often been part of the problem although this is very much a problem of economics and we economists should be part of the solution. The policy discussions have been polarized and limited. This class tries to understand this situation and to provide the tools needed to overcome this.

***1.3. Requirements***

* Attendance in class. Hans will take class rolls.
* Subscribe to the [energy mailing list](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/mailman/listinfo/energy). You are required to stay subscribed until the end of the Semester but you may stay on even after that if you like. This is a low volume list with quality postings, which has some of the most active members of the Utah environmental community as subscribers.
* Attend either one of the three conferences listed in this syllabus or one of the environmental policy stakeholder events during the Semester, write a report about it, and upload your report on the Unite Site. How do you find out about the stakeholder events? Hans will post announcements to the Energy list.
* Midterm exam
* Final exam
* 15-minute quizes at the beginning of class on Jan 17 and Jan 24. Hans has never done such quizes, and according to how these quizes go he nay continue them or may assign regular homeworks in a different way. If these quizes work well, we may not need a midterm.
* Each student has to prepare a portion of a chapter in the text book (one half or one third) and present it to the class in a 15 minute talk.
* Each student enrolled in 6250 also has to write a brief term paper (5–10 pages) about an energy-policy related topic. Here are some recommended termpaper topics, but you are allowed to come up with your own topic, send an email to Hans:
	+ Review and Critique of the Utah's Energy Plan [Herbert (2011-March 2)](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.html#Herbert2011EII), see for instance [Gleich (2011)](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.html#Gleich2011UEI) and Hans's [Notes](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/Herbert2011EII.html). Damon M is doing this paper.
	+ Combined Heat and Power in Utah, look at Hans's [notes](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/CastenAyres2007EME.xhtml) about [Casten and Ayres (2007)](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.html#CastenAyres2007EME). Why is there not more? Obstacles.
	+ Future of the Grid, see [Heidel et al. (2012-jan)](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.html#HeidelKassakianSchmalensee2012PPTD)
	+ Which regulatory reforms are necessary to accommodate distributed energy? See [Tomain (2008-aug)](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.html#Tomain2008BIU)
* Hans is flexible regarding the requirements and he is willing to take input from the class participants regarding what works best given the nature of the material to be studied.

**2. The Course Week by Week**

***2.1. Jan 10 2012: Introduction.***

We will discuss the format of the class and Hans will present the Introduction of the text book to the class so that participants know how he wants you to do your class presentations in the subsequent classes. Hans is maintaining detailed [Notes](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/GeriMcNabb2011EPUS.html) about the textbook which will be updated during the Semester. Instead of using powerpoints, he will carefully discuss this web site in class, follow the links, look at some of the videos linked, etc.

***2.2. Jan 17 2012: Chapter 1: The Political Realities of Energy Policy***

Be there on time. Here is a tentative detailed schedule for this class. Let's see how this works out.

* 6–6:20 pm quiz with two essay questions.
	+ One essay question will be one of the questions about the Introduction listed on [p. 215](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/GeriMcNabb2011EPUS.html#GeriMcNabb2011EPUS_Part_III_A_Introduction) of the textbook. Hans copied these questions literally into his notes about the textbook.
	+ The other question will be written by Hans based on the class discussion on Jan 10. Prepare for it by reading the [Introduction](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/GeriMcNabb2011EPUS_Introduction.pdf) itself and Hans's [notes about the Introduction](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/GeriMcNabb2011EPUS.html#GeriMcNabb2011EPUS_Introduction) and by following the links embedded in these notes.
* 6:20–6:40 pm: presentation by Cathy M. about first half of chapter 1.
* 6:40–6:50 pm: discussion about first half of chapter 1
* 6:50–7:10 pm: presentation by Derek H about second half of chapter 1.
* 7:10–7:20 pm: discussion about second half of chapter 1
* 7:20–7:30 pm: break.
* 7:30–8:40 pm: Hans will make a presentation about the [Rankine cycle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rankine_cycle), and as an introduction into this technology he will talk about the very first steam-powered industrial machine, [Newcomen's steam pump](http://www.animatedengines.com/newcomen.html).

***2.3. Jan 24 2012: Chapter 2: Energy Policy in Transition***

As always, be there on time. This schedule here may be modified according to how things worked on Jan 17, but tentatively here it is:

* 6–6:20 pm quiz with two essay questions.
	+ One essay question will be one of the 15 review questions about Chapter 1 listed on [p. 215/216](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/GeriMcNabb2011EPUS.html#GeriMcNabb2011EPUS_Part_III_A_1) of the textbook.
	+ The other question will be drawn up by Hans based on the class discussion on Jan 17.
* 6:20–6:40 pm: presentation about first third of chapter 2 by Shawn R.
* 6:40–6:50 pm: discussion about first third of chapter 2
* 6:50–7:10 pm: presentation about second third of chapter 2 by Brent C.
* 7:10–7:20 pm: discussion about second third of chapter 2
* 7:20–7:30 pm: break.
* 7:30–7:50 pm: presentation about third third of chapter by Moudi S.
* 7:50–8:00 pm: discussion about third third of chapter 2

***2.4. Jan 31 2012: Chapter 3: The Art and Science of Crafting Public Policy***

We will have a quiz again at the beginning, then Christine K will make a presentation about the second half of the chapter.

In the second half, Hans talked about exergy. Notes are at [Entropy.xhtml](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/Entropy.xhtml), you have to use Firefox to visit this link because of the mathml.

***2.5. Feb 7, 2012: Chapter 4: The Long Search for a Sustainable Energy Policy***

Again a quiz at the beginning, then Keith H will present about Chapter 4. In the last hour of class a presentation and discussion about [Ambre Energy](http://www.ambreenergy.com).

**2.5.1. Thursday Feb 9, 2012: Electric Power in a Carbon Constrained World**

Attendance is not required but highly recommended. [Conference](https://newsletters.law.utah.edu/?stegner=stegner-conference-electric-power-in-a-carbon-constrained-world) in the Sutherland Moot Courtroom of the S.J. Quinney College of Law Speakers include:

* Lincoln Davies, University of Utah College of Law
* John Dernbach, Widner University School of Law
* Steven Ferrey, Suffolk University Law School
* James Holtkamp, Holland and Hart
* Alexandra Klass, University of Minnesota Law School
* Bruce Pendery, Wyoming Outdoor Council
* Richard Pierce, George Washington University Law School
* Arnold Reitze, University of Utah College of Law
* John Ruple, University of Utah Institute of Clean and Secure Energy
* Michael Stern, Stern and Stern
* Christopher Thomas, HEAL Utah
* Hannah Wiseman, University of Tulsa College of Law.

Lunch provided. [Registration](https://umarket.utah.edu/uofulaw/) required. $30 for students.

***2.6. Feb 14, 2012: Chapter 5: Difficulties in Achieving a Balanced Energy Policy***

Ted P is presenting about chapter 5.

**2.6.1. Wed Feb 15, 2012: Utah's Energy Development Summit**

Attendance is not required but highly recommended. It is 8–5 in the Salt Palace Convention Center, Student admission only $25. You will hear the energy priorities of the state of Utah. Register at <http://event.registerat.com/oed12/>. Hans will be there.

**2.6.2. Thu/Fri Feb 16–17, 2012: Electric Roads and Vehicle Conference in Park City**

Attendance is not required but highly recommended. This is a conference where international authorities speak about a cutting-edge technology for electric cars without batteries, and it is in our back yard, in Park City! There will be a pre-conference tutorial on Thursday morning, some business roundtables Thursday afternoon, and more sessions all day Friday. Conference fee is $150 for students, this is definitely worth while. Register at [www.cervconference.org](http://www.cervconference.org/). Hans will be there both at the pre-conference workshop and the conference itself.

***2.7. Feb 21, 2012: Chapter 6: What's on the Current Energy Policy Agenda?***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Email Hans if you want to present this chapter or a part of it.

***2.8. Feb 28, 2012: Review Session in Preparation of the Midterm***

***2.9. Mar 6 2012: Midterm***

**2.9.1. Mar 9–10 2012: Stegner Symposium**

Attendance is not required but highly recommended. The title of this year's Stegner Symposium is “Silent Spring at 50: The Legacy of Rachel Carson.” Fort Douglas Ballroom in the University Guest House, University of Utah. Speakers include:

* Susan Avery, President and Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
* Terrence Collins, Senior Institute Member, The Institute for Green Science, Carnegie Mellon University
* Robin Craig, Attorneys' Title Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Environmental Programs, and Co-Director of the Environmental and Land Use Law Program, Florida State University College of Law
* Paul Holthus, founding Executive Director, World Ocean Council
* Rowan Jacobsen, author of Fruitless Fall and other books;
* Priscilla Murphy, Author of What a Book Can Do: The Publication and Reception of Silent Spring
* Naomi Oreskes, Professor of History and Science Studies, University of California, San Diego and author of Merchants of Doubt
* Sandra Steingraber, Ecologist and author of Living Downstream: An Ecologist’s Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment and other books
* Wendy Wagner, Joe A. Worsham Centennial Professor, School of Law, University of Texas at Austin, and the production of “Air Tight,” a play by Aden Ross.

Registration required and there will be a fee. Hans will put the link up when it is available at the Law School. Unfortunately Hans will not be at this conference.

**2.9.2. No class Mar 13 2012: Spring Break**

***2.10. Mar 27 2012: Chapter 8: Policies Shaped by Taxes and Market Mechanisms***

***2.11. Apr 3 2012: Chapter 9: International Cooperation on Energy Policy***

***2.12. Apr 10 2012: Chapter 10: Policies for a New Energy Future***

***2.13. Apr 17 2012: Chapter 11: Aftermath of the Gulf Oil Spill: Prospects for Policy Changes***

***2.14. Apr 24 2012: Last Class of the Semester: Review Session in Preparation of Final Exam.***

***2.15. May 1 2011: Final Exam***

Same time same classroom as the ordinary classes.

**3. Term Paper Subjects**

Same time same classroom as the ordinary classes.

**General Bibliography**

1. Caroline Gleich. Utah’s Energy Issues and Implications for Public Policy. Hinckley Journal of Politics 2011. 12 pp. 7-14. <<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/publications/journal/2011_Journal.pdf>>.
2. Gary R Herbert. *Energy Initiatives and Imperatives*, *Utah’s 10-Year Strategic Energy Plan*, 2011-March 2. Governor’s Office, State of Utah. <<http://www.energy.utah.gov/governorsenergyplan/index.htm>>. <[Utah](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/10year-strategic-energy.pdf)>.
3. Joseph P Tomain. Building the iUtility. Market Forces are Transforming the IOU Business Model. Public Utilities Fortnightly 2008-aug. <<http://www.fortnightly.com/display_pdf.cfm?id=08012008_BuildingiUtility.pdf>>.
4. Thomas R Casten, Robert U Ayres. Energy Myth Eight—Worldwide Power Systems are Economically and Environmentally Optimal. *Energy and American Society—Thirteen Myths*, Benjamin K Sovacool, Marilyn A Brown (eds.) 2007. Dordrecht: Springer. <<http://www.springerlink.com/content/wmx4830q104r6346/>>. <<http://www.myilibrary.com/?id=90261>>. <[Marriott](http://thoth.library.utah.edu:1701/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vl%28128674189UI5%29=all_items&vl%28freeText0%29=&indx=1&vl%28D2085697UI3%29=all_items&vl%2827456155UI4%29=all_items&vl%281UI1%29=contains&srt=rank&vl%28freeText1%29=&dscnt=0&mode=Advanced&vl%28129169332UI2%29=isbn&vid=UUU&scp.scps=scope%3A%28uu%29&vl%281UI2%29=exact&ct=search&fn=search&vl%28freeText2%29=9781402055638&frbg=&vl%2811528880UI1%29=any&tab=default_tab&dstmp=1274608249136&vl%28129169326UI0%29=any&vl%281UI0%29=contains&dum=true)>.
5. Timothy D Heidel, John G Kassakian, Richard Schmalensee. Gridlock in 2030?. Policy Priorities for Managing T and D Evolution. Public Utilities Fortnightly 2012-jan. <<http://www.fortnightly.com/article.cfm?p_id=728>>.

[**U of U Econ Dept**](http://www.economics.utah.edu/) | [**TEI Source**](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.tei)| [**Pdf version**](http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/readings/syllabus.pdf) | **Email Hans G Ehrbar**

*Hans G. Ehrbar. Date: Spring Semester 2012
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