SCHOOL OF HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

Peak Carbon. Climate change and energy policy

ARTS2241

S2, 2010
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COURSE STAFF

Donna Green
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Level 4 Mathews Bld
Office hrs Mondays 1-2pm or by email

Donna.green@unsw.edu.au
http://web.maths.unsw.edu.au/~donnag/

COURSE DETAILS

Why are Australians among the world’s worst per capita greenhouse gas polluters? What has Australia done to reduce its contribution to global climate change compared to other nations, such as the US, UK and Germany? What are the major obstacles to be overcome before Australia can make deep cuts in greenhouse emissions, particularly from energy generation? Exploring these and other key issues, Peak Carbon will give students a greater insight into one of the most important policy challenges confronting Australia and the world today.

** Please have the text book:

_Screw Light Bulbs_ (D Green & L Minchin) bought prior to first class. It is available at the uni book shop.

Other readings will be made available in class, or via the web.

** There is a $5 charge to go on the field trip to Michael Mobbs’ house in Chippendale. This is a required field trip for the course.

COURSE AIMS

- Create awareness of the ‘bigger picture’ that connects concerns over climate change and energy policy in Australia.
- Explain the individual and policy options to reduce the problem.
- Identify barriers to carrying out solutions.
- Connect Australian situation to international sphere.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, student should be able to:

- Explain why sound national energy policy is crucial to designing effective national, and international, climate change policy
- Outline Australia’s current energy strategy and discuss how we got here
- Understand what social and environmental problems this strategy creates
- Detail what options there are for future directions domestically and internationally
- Describe the pros and cons of Australia’s energy and climate change policies in comparison to other countries.
LEARNING AND TEACHING RATIONALE

My teaching rationale:
If it’s not interesting – don’t teach it.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Primarily lecturing with occasional guest speaker. Use of multimedia and student participation during lectures and tutorials.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Climate change: impacts and science
Week 2: Linking climate change to energy use
Week 3: Consumption, capitalism and happiness
Week 4: Greenwashing and offsetting
Week 5: Renewable energy options
Week 6: Transport alternatives and the urban form
Week 7: **FIELD TRIP TO MICHAEL MOBBS’ HOUSE - BUILDINGS**
Week 8: International policy and business opportunities
Week 9: Equity and ethics of the international greenhouse debate
Week 10: Future energy options and policy
Week 11: wrap-up/ revision
Week 12: Exam

Tutorial schedule

Week 1: no tutorial
Week 2: Energy
Week 3: Consumption
Week 4: Essay planning/writing
Week 5: Renewable energy options
Week 6: Transport
Week 7: Buildings and urban design
Week 8: International policy
Week 9: Equity and ethics
Week 10: Future energy options and policy
Week 11: Exam revision
Week 12: Informal discussion re career/jobs

ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In class presentation</td>
<td>15mins for each group</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in tutorials and workbooks</td>
<td>600 words a week + participation in tutorials</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Hand in comments about reading very week there is a tutorial class including Mobbs’ house tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Essay | 2500 words +refs | 40% | Topic given out in week 4. Essay to be handed in at the beginning of lecture in week 8 (ie on 15th Sept the week after mid session break) AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. If it comes any later than 11am, it is considered ‘late’. Emails with soft copy must be sent PRIOR to 11am on this day, otherwise again, essay is considered ‘late’. 

Final in class test | 1 & ½ hr | 30% | Week 12 in class

Assignment Submission

- Class participation will be discussed in the first class.
- Workbooks must be handed in at the beginning of each tutorial in hard copy.
- Essay must be handed in both in hard copy AND emailed to Donna before 11am on the 15th Sept. Penalties will be taken off if both copies are not handed in by this time.
- A completed cover sheet must be securely attached to the hard copy essay.

Assignment Extensions

A student may apply to the Lecturer/Tutor for an extension to the submission date of an assignment. Requests for extension must be made on the appropriate form and before the submission due date, and must demonstrate exceptional circumstances, which warrant the granting of an extension. If medical grounds preclude submission of assignment by due date, contact should be made with subject coordinator as soon as possible. A medical certificate will be required for late submission and must be appropriate for the extension period. Assessment Extension forms are available at the School Office, Level 3, Morven Brown Building and online at: [http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/)

Late Submission of Assignments

Assignments submitted after the due or extended date will incur a 50% penalty of the maximum marks available for that assignment. That means that an essay handed in anytime after 11am on the 15th Sept but before 11am on the 16th Sept cannot get more than 50% (as 50% will be deducted for lateness automatically). This means both the hard copy, with cover sheet AND soft copy must be in by this time otherwise the essay will not get marked.

Assignments received more than 2 calendar days after the due or extended date will not be allocated a mark.
ATTENDANCE

To successfully complete this unit you are required to attend minimum 80% of classes. If this requirement is not met you will fail the unit. The Lecturer will keep attendance records.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Students seeking information on plagiarism should visit the following web site:
http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

UNSW’s Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. Students having any OHS concerns should raise them with their immediate supervisor, the School’s OHS representative, or the Head of School. The OHS guidelines are available at:
http://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/ohswc/ohs/ohs_policies.html

STUDENT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Diversity Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at:
http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au

Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made. Information on designing courses and course outlines that take into account the needs of students with disabilities can be found at:

GRIEVANCES

The university is concerned that all students are treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should in the first instance attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors. If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of History has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of History. Further information about
UNSW grievance procedures is available on the university website and in the Undergraduate Handbook.

OTHER STUDENT INFORMATION

myUNSW is the single online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing & current students and UNSW staff.

myUNSW is a great resource for further information not listed in this course outline. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html
https://my.unsw.edu.au/portal/dt?desktop.suid=uid=anonymousActive,ou=People,dc=unsw,dc=edu,dc=au