

# Syllabus

TITLE: Energy and Society  
NUMBER: PHYS 102X  
CREDITS: 4  
PREREQUISITES: Placement in ENGL 111X or higher; placement in DEVM 105 or higher; or permission of instructor  
LOCATION: Online course  
MEETING TIME: Asynchronous course (no fixed meeting time)  
COURSE TYPE: Online asynchronous

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tom Marsik  
OFFICE LOCATION: Cold Climate Housing Research Center  
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment  
TELEPHONE: (907)450-1785  
EMAIL ADDRESS: [tmarsik@alaska.edu](mailto:tmarsik@alaska.edu)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exploring the concept of energy. Investigation of the sources, conversion, distribution and ultimate dispersion of energy, as well as the consequences of its use in the development and maintenance of modern society.

### Lecture Topics

The course begins with definitions of power and energy with emphasis on common terms such as BTUs, horsepower, and kilowatt hours. Reserves of the exhaustible sources of energy (coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium) will be discussed and projections will be made of the times at which these will become exhausted as a result of increased population and improved standards of living. The thermodynamic limits to improved energy efficiency will be discussed and techniques for making use of waste heat. Alternative energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal, tides, and hydroelectric) will be discussed and projections will be made of their possible future impact. Promise and problems of nuclear energy will be explored. The course will discuss ways to save energy, which covers topics such as thermal insulation and energy efficient lighting and appliances. Energy used for transportation will be explored. In the end, the air pollution and global effects associated with energy use and production will be discussed. Throughout the course, the relationship between the covered scientific knowledge and public policy will be explored.

### Lab Topics

Lab 1 – Online power plant tours

Lab 2 – CCHRC (Cold Climate Housing Research Center) online tour

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131 Bunnell Building  
PO BOX 756700, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6700  
907.455.2060 - 800.227.8060  
Email: [uaf-ecampus@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-ecampus@alaska.edu)

Lab 3 – ACEP (Alaska Center for Energy and Power) online tour  
Lab 4 – Simple machines  
Lab 5 – Human power and food energy  
Lab 6 – Analyze a bad example of scientific research design  
Lab 7 – Heat transfer  
Lab 8 – Home energy  
Lab 9 – DC circuits 1  
Lab 10 – DC circuits 2 + AC circuits  
Lab 11 – Photovoltaics

## **COURSE GOALS**

To provide education that will help solve the current energy situation.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Answer questions such as the energy savings of more efficient appliances or automobiles, or the installation of storm windows or attic insulation.
- Understand and make informed decisions about legislation relating to the regulation of energy sources, pollution from energy sources, energy efficiency standards, “zero” pollution vehicles and public investment in mass transit.

## **COURSE READINGS/MATERIALS**

Required Text:

Energy and the Environment (3rd Edition): R. Ristinen, J. Kraushaar, and J. Brack

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE**

Regular access to a computer and the Internet to access online materials in Blackboard and to submit assignments. Required software: MS Word and MS PowerPoint.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

Blackboard collaborate / teleconference lectures are closely integrated with homework exercises and independent projects. Email and Blackboard are used for off-class communication, sharing material, and exams. Labs are performed by distance using a lab-kit and online tools.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

See the “Course Completion Guide”.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

1. UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others.
2. You are encouraged to attend and actively participate in all lectures.

3. All labs and reports must be completed to get a passing grade for the lab. A passing grade in the lab is necessary to pass the course.
- 4. Late lab reports will not be accepted without prior arrangements and will result in failure of the course.**
- 5. Lab kits must be mailed back using a pre-paid shipping label by Tuesday April 21, 2020. Neglecting to do so will result in an I (incomplete) grade and a hold on the student's account.**
6. Homework will be assigned each Tuesday and due at 11:59pm the following Tuesday. You are encouraged to discuss homework questions with your peers, but you are not allowed to copy.
- 7. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval of instructor.**
8. Student presentations must be delivered when scheduled.
9. The instructor reserves the right to amend this course outline as needed.

## EVALUATION POLICIES

Final grades are calculated from the points earned in the following areas:

**Attendance and Participation** ..... 10%

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all sessions (this can be done synchronously or asynchronously).

**Homework**..... 10%

It will consist of problems and questions related to recently covered material in lectures. It will be assigned each Tuesday and due at 11:59pm the following Tuesday.

**Projects**..... 10%

The project will be in the form of researching a topic related to the course that you find interesting and we agree on together. These projects could include for example literature review regarding energy technologies, or scientific projects. Every student will deliver a 10-15 min presentation to the rest of the class followed by a short discussion. They will be graded both for presentation and content.

**Midterm Exams**..... 30%

Midterm exams will be open book, open notes, and will be taken via Blackboard. Midterm 1 will cover all material covered up to that point. Midterm 2 will cover mainly material covered between Midterm1 and Midterm 2. Honesty system will be used (no proctoring).

**Final Exam**..... 20%

Final exam will be open book, open notes, and will be taken via Blackboard. It will cover all material from the whole semester. Honesty system will be used (no proctoring).

**Labs** ..... 20%

Labs will be done by distance using a combination of online tools and a lab-kit. See the

“Labs” folder on Blackboard for lab topics and more information about the labs.

Grading Policy:

Letter Grades

A+	96.7 – 100%
A	93.3 – 96.7%
A-	90.0 – 93.3%
B+	86.7 – 90.0%
B	83.3 – 86.7%
B-	80.0 – 83.3%
C+	76.7 – 80.0%
C	73.3 – 76.7%
C-	70.0 – 73.3%
D+	66.7 – 70.0%
D	63.3 – 66.7%
D-	60.0 – 63.3%
F	Below 60%

“C” (including C+ and C-) indicates a satisfactory level of acquired knowledge and performance in completion of course requirements.

C– (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for another course. A minimum grade of C (2.0), however, MAY be required by specific programs for prerequisite and/ or major / minor courses. Please consult specific program listings in the UAF Catalog.

C– (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade required for all Core (X) Courses.

“D” (including D+ and D-) indicates a minimal level of acquired knowledge and minimal performance in completion of course requirements. This grade does not satisfy requirements for courses in the major, minor, Core, or graduate programs.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author’s words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of “F.” For more information go to [Student Code of Conduct](#).

## **EXPLANATION OF NB/I/W GRADES**

**This course adheres to the UAF regarding the granting of NB Grades** *The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a*

*grade. In general, the NB grade will not be granted.*

**Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:**

“The letter “I” (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student’s control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an “I” grade.”

**Successful, timely completion of this course depends on committing yourself early and maintaining your effort.** Failure to submit assignments in a timely manner may result in faculty-initiated Withdrawal from the course, which can result in a **W** on your transcript.

**INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE TIME**

Generally, emails will be responded to within 24 hours (except for weekends). Graded material with instructor’s comments will generally be returned within 48 hours after assignment due date.

**HOW TO CHECK YOUR GRADE**

To check your grades for assignments, click on the My Grades link in the sidebar menu on Blackboard.

**EFFORT AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

Student effort/time is expected to be distributed in the course approximately as follows:

**Instruction:** Lecture/Readings 35%

**Individual Research:** Project and presentations 15%

**Assignments:** Homework 15%

**Labs:** Labs 25%

**Collaboration:** Discussion Board 10%

**EXPECTATION OF STUDENT EFFORT**

Students should expect to spend about 12 hours per week on this class. Students are expected to complete the weekly assignments by their due dates. If circumstances arise that cause you to need extra time on any assignment(s), email your instructor or lab supervisor for guidance. Extensions of due dates may be granted, but your instructor or lab supervisor expects to be informed in advance if you are not able to submit your assignment on time. Students are expected to maintain a working backup plan to be implemented in the event of a computer malfunction or an interruption of their normal Internet service during the course.

**STUDENT PROTECTIONS AND SERVICES STATEMENT**

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disability services, veterans' services, rural student services, etc. to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment

and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site:

[www.uaf.edu/handbook](http://www.uaf.edu/handbook)

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Go to the Student Handbook ([www.uaf.edu/handbook](http://www.uaf.edu/handbook)) for things like: academic advising, tutoring, library and academic support, disability services, computing and technology, veteran and military support, academic complaint and appeals, late withdrawals, “classroom” behavior expectations and more.

**UAF eCampus Student Services** helps students with registration and course schedules, provides information about lessons and student records, assists with the examination process, and answers general questions. Our Academic Advisor can help students communicate with instructors, locate helpful resources, and maximize their distance learning experience. Contact the UAF eCampus Student Services staff at 907.455.2060 or toll free 1.800.277.8060 or contact staff directly with our [directory listing](#).

### **UAF Help Desk**

Go to <http://www.alaska.edu/oit/> to see about current network outages and technology news.

For technical questions, contact the Help Desk at:

- e-mail at [helpdesk@alaska.edu](mailto:helpdesk@alaska.edu)
- phone: 450.8300 (in the Fairbanks area) or 1.800.478.8226 (outside of Fairbanks)

### **Effective Communication**

Students who have difficulties with oral presentations and/or writing are strongly encouraged to get help from:

- [UAF Department of Communication’s Speaking Center](#) (907.474.5470, [speak@uaf.edu](mailto:speak@uaf.edu))
- [UAF English’s Department’s Writing Center](#) (907.474.5314, Gruening 8th floor)
- [CTC’s Learning Center](#) (604 Barnette st, 907.455.2860).

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

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