Energy Policy: Historical and Contemporary Issues

STSS 6234
Fall 2012
3 Credit Hours
Time: Wednesday, 7-9:45PM
Locations: NVC, room TBA

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Office Hours: by appointment

Short Description
This course will use perspectives developed in Science and Technology Studies to provide an introduction to energy policy. We will discuss national and international topics and controversies, including the 1970s oil crisis, climate change, energy security, and the renewed debate over nuclear power. Throughout, we will use historical and contemporary sources, and will compare discussions in the U.S. with events elsewhere in the world. The goal of this seminar is not only to expand our knowledge of energy options, but also to connect ongoing controversies to historical debates, and to develop the ability to engage history meaningfully to address contemporary problems of our global energy situation.

Readings
Six books are recommended for purchase (available through the bookstore and online):

All other readings will be made available online to registered students through the course website on Scholar. The readings will include recent articles from journals such as Energy Policy, and Innovations, as well as sections from books such as John Deutch’s The Crisis in Energy Policy (2011), Campbell & Price’s Global Politics of Energy (2008), Kalicki & Goldwyn’s Energy and Security: Toward a New Foreign Policy Strategy (2005), and Mark Pelling’s Adaptation to Climate Change: From Resilience to Transformation (2011). At least one guest speaker will visit our class during the course of the semester.

Expectations
Active participation in class discussion and regular attendance is expected. Students will lead class discussion at least once a semester, write short weekly responses to the readings, and write a research paper on a topic of your choice (including peer review and presentation). The VT Honor Code will be enforced in this course (http://ghs.graduateschool.vt.edu).