

Course number GS1116

Meeting times Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:10 – 10:10

Meeting place Lewis Hall Science 324

Text *Energy: Physical, Environmental and Social Impact* by Aubrecht

Instructor Jeff Marx

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Office hours Monday 3:00 – 4:30, Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00, Thursday 2:00 – 3:00, or anytime the mood strikes you and I'm around.

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Course Objective The purpose of this course is to augment the citizenship of all persons involved by promoting a deep appreciation and understanding the effects, limitations, and potentials of human energy consumption.

Reading For us to have an intelligent and meaningful meeting, you and I must come to class prepared. As part of your preparation, please complete the reading assignment for the class I've assigned. You will learn very little, if anything, by coming to class with the expectation that by some magical, osmosis-like process you will absorb and internalize the material. To help you keep focused on the big issues while you are reading, I've created Preparatory Sheets for you to complete. You must hand-in your responses to these questions on the day I've assigned.

Class time *Actively pursue Scholarship*

Scientists have traditionally delivered the wonders of the universe to students via lectures. Modern education research has proved over and over again that this is a poor instructional technique. As such, we will spend the bulk of our time together analyzing and discussing basic physical concepts, and developing your problem-solving abilities. In other words, you will be actively engaged in your own learning process.

This doesn't mean that I've abandoned lecturing all together. I still need some time to impress you with gee-whiz demos.

Homework Homework is due in-class on the dates noted on the syllabus. I will grade the entire homework set. For critical information about how to approach your homework, please see the *Homework Guide*. I will deduct 10% from your homework for each school day it is late until I post solutions on the web, at which point I will not accept late homework.

Exams You will take three exams over the course of the semester. You may use a calculator on the exams, and I will provide a crib sheet. These exams will focus on the material from the weeks prior to the exam; however, latter exams will almost certainly have material from earlier in the term.

There will be no make-up exams with out contacting me prior to the exam date or without proper documentation. Acceptable forms of documentation include, but are not limited to, your bail bond receipt, or \$10,000 cash.

- Quizzes There will be three quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will take you approximately 15 minutes to complete. I will administer a quiz at the beginning of class on the dates listed on the syllabus. I will provide a crib sheet.
- Final Exam To offer you the occasion to impress upon me that you have achieved one of the most important levels of learning – synthesis, there will be a comprehensive final at the close of the semester. Just as for exams and the quizzes, you may use a calculator and I will provide a crib sheet.
- Grades Although grades should be the least of your concerns, I know for most of you they are a foremost concern. Many good instructors I've met feel they are only a pale representation of how well you know or don't know the subject material. However, sometimes it may seem that your future economic, social, and mental well-being somehow depends on what grades you earn in college. Go figure!

Preparatory Sheets \approx 15%

Homework \approx 40%

Exams \approx 25%

Quizzes \approx 5%

Final exam \approx 15%

- Cheating Although you may not be necessarily exuberant with my grading policy, or grades in general, by sitting in this classroom you have agreed to abide by the school's Honor Code. Cheating on exams and copying homework is a violation of that contract and represents a particular type of anarchy, which is dishonorable and unfair, so I will not tolerate it. (This is not to say that all types of anarchy are bad, some may be tolerated. Exercise your imagination.) If you feel that you are on an inexorable collision course with a poor grade on an upcoming assignment or test, please see me. We'll talk. The grading policy outlined above is only an approximation, and I'm ready to take into account other factors: motivation, creativity, attendance, et cetera. I don't want anyone to reach a level of despair so deep they feel they must cheat to score well.

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous. - Aristotle