Check out our [Interactive Visual Syllabus](#) on our course website

Brandi Robinson
Associate Teaching Professor
John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Office Hours: online via Zoom, by appointment | brobinson@psu.edu

Contacting your instructor: Post any question you would raise your hand in class to ask to the corresponding discussion forum in Canvas. Asking questions on our forums can benefit all students in that everyone will see the discussions and answers regarding class questions. For questions which are more personal in nature, please contact me through the course e-mail system in Canvas.

NOTE: I'll check email, discussion forums, submission comments, etc. at least once per day during the work week (Monday through Friday) and as time permits on weekends. In other words, even if you plan to do the bulk of your work over the weekend, it is prudent you submit questions to me by Friday to ensure I'm able to respond with enough time for you to utilize my answers to your questions for on-time submissions by Sunday night. If you've reached out to me in any of these ways and don't hear back within 24 hours (during the week), that's **not** normal for me – reach out again via brobinson@psu.edu.

Course Overview

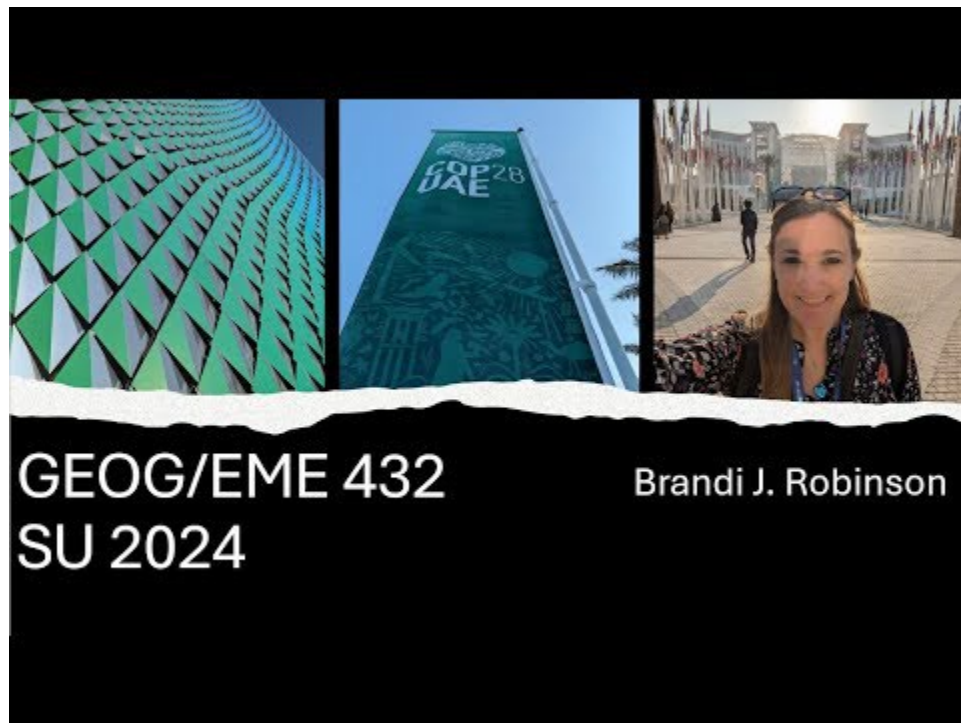"Line 'em up" by Ian Muttoo is licensed under CC BY 2.0

EME 432 is an exploration of the government, corporate, and public perspectives on the analysis, development, and implementation of energy- and climate-related policies, regulations, and initiatives with particular emphasis on their climate change implications.

- Unit 1: we build foundational knowledge about the context of energy policy as climate policy and learn more about our semester-long project in energy efficiency.

- Unit 2: we dig into the nuts and bolts of how policy ideas become realities, primarily in the public policy spheres of local, state, and federal governments.

- Unit 3: we look ahead to our future. Recognizing that we're undertaking this course during a presidential administration transition, a lot of the details for this last unit will be emerging in real time.

What I Expect of You

On average, most students spend eight to ten hours per week working on course assignments, but of course this varies from student to student. If you stick to our schedule and stay engaged, you're going to be successful in this class.

Here is a short video introducing you to the class where I chat about what I hope we'll accomplish this semester, what I expect of you, and (as importantly!) what you can expect of me.

Course Goals and Outcomes

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- **Identify** energy and climate policy knowledge gaps and needs at various governmental and entity levels.

- **Examine** existing and proposed energy and climate policy critically to expose errors, find unintended consequences, and contemplate improvements.

- **Identify** the drivers of energy and climate policy from political, environmental, and economic perspectives to explain how these drivers and exist either in conflict with or complement each other.

- **Articulate** the goals and outcomes of energy and climate policy to diverse audiences, translating often-cumbersome language into a more accessible format for stakeholders and the public.

Specific learning objectives for each lesson and project are detailed within each lesson. The class schedule is published on the Canvas Calendar. Assigned readings are included in the Canvas modules.

Required Course Materials

Good news! No buying books! All materials needed for this course are presented online through our Course website and in Canvas. To access all materials, you need to have an active Penn State Access Account user ID and password (used to access the online course resources). If you have any questions about obtaining or activating your Penn State Access Account and are a World Campus student, please contact the Outreach Helpdesk. If you are a resident education student, please contact the ITS Help Desk.

Assignments and Grading

The course has 3 units with a total of 12 weekly lessons. We will also undertake a semester-long project to support the Centre Region's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Project – 50%	Lesson Activities – 50%
 • Mid-semester Exec Summary Draft (10%) • Mid-semester Update (5%) • Presentation (15%) • Slides (5%) • Final Executive Summary (15%)	Each lesson contains some sort of activity to assess your understanding of the associated content. These are a mix of automated quizzes, discussion forums, and writing assignments. **Your lowest score will be automatically dropped from calculation.**

Grading Scale

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92.99
B+	87 – 89.99
B	83 – 86.99
B-	80 – 82.99
C+	77 – 79.99
C	70 – 76.99
D	60 – 69.99
F	0 – 59.99

Letter grades will be based on the following percentages (percentages refer to the proportion of all possible points earned by the student).

- **No rounding**
- **No extra credit**

Try your best on all assigned work!

Course Schedule

You should refer to the Canvas calendar for all due dates, also described below. If you notice any inconsistencies or conflicting information, please ask. Lessons open each week on Monday morning, and associated work and deliverables are due **Sunday nights at 11:59 pm**. Work due the last week of the semester is not eligible for late submission with the late penalty. Once final grade calculation is done, it's done.

Unit 1: Foundations

May 13-19	**Orientation** • Review syllabus, Resources, and all orientation materials in Canvas • Orientation Quiz • Introductions • Academic Integrity Training
	1: Energy in Transition • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Discussion
May 20-26	**2: Centre Region Climate Action Project: Supporting Local Business Action** • All assigned readings (on Canvas) • Attend (or later watch) Zoom with Pam Adams, Centre Region Planning Agency Sustainability Planner • Project Assignment
May 27-June 2	**3: Climate Policy is the New Energy Policy** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Quiz
June 3-9	**4: The Future is Local** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Writing Assignment

June 10-16	**5: The Climate Citizen** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Yale SASSY Activity

Unit 2: Immersion

June 17-23	**6: Policy Drivers** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Writing Assignment
June 24-30	**7: Considerations for Effective Climate Policy** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Writing Assignment • Mid-semester Update: Draft Executive Summary • Mid-semester Update: Reflection and Plans
July 1-7	**8: Implementation and Monitoring** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Writing Assignment
July 8-14	**9: Policy Analysis** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Discussion

Unit 3: Exploration

July 15-21	**10: International Cooperation on Climate** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Quiz
July 22-28	**11: Federal Action for a Sustainable Energy Future** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Discussion
July 29-August 4	**12: Energy Transitions Revisited** • All assigned readings (course content on website and external readings) • Discussion
August 5-9	**Finals Week:** • Final Executive Summary (August 7) • Final Slide Deck (August 7) • Presentation to Centre Region Sustainability Planner (TBD)

Course Policies

What should I do if I'm having trouble in Canvas when I'm trying to submit work or take a quiz?

Technology only fails you when you need it most. Waiting until the very last minute to submit something invites technical issues that cost you a late penalty. Part of your responsibility in this class to ensure that your work is *received* by the deadline (not simply that it's done by then).

- Take screen captures or pictures of the errors you're receiving
- Email instructor right away
- If you're trying to submit something to a drop box and it's not working, email it to the instructor to demonstrate you had the work done by the deadline.

Late Policy

You are expected to submit your work on time, as scheduled; however, late completion is possible if arranged beforehand in the case of illness or emergency. **If you find yourself falling behind, talk to the instructor *before* you miss a deadline, not after.** Instructors are people too, and we understand that life happens, particularly this semester. Late submissions incur 10% per day penalty* unless approved by the instructor.

- "Before" the deadline implies at least 24 hours' notice, except for extenuating circumstances that don't allow for that. Emailing 2 hours before the deadline to say, "I've been sick all week, can I have an extension?" doesn't work well. Be proactive in reaching out when trouble emerges.
- ***Work due in the last week of the semester is NOT eligible for late submission with penalty.**

Technical Requirements

For this course, we recommend the minimum technical requirements outlined on the [World Campus Technical Requirements](#) page, including the requirements listed for same-time, synchronous communications. If you need technical assistance at any point during the course, please contact [World Campus Technical Support](#) (for World Campus students) or the [ITS Help Desk](#) (for students at all other campus locations).

Internet Connection

Access to a reliable broadband Internet connection is required for this course. A problem with your Internet access may not be used as an excuse for late, missing, or incomplete coursework. If you experience problems with your Internet connection while working on this course, it is your responsibility to find an alternative Internet access point, such as a public library or wireless hotspot.

Mixed Content

This site is considered a secure website, which means that your connection is encrypted. We do, however, link to content that isn't necessarily encrypted. This is called mixed content. By default, mixed content is blocked in Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome. This may result in a blank page or a message saying that only secure

content is displayed. Follow the directions on our technical requirements page of the course orientation to view the mixed content.

Penn State Email Accounts

All official communications from the Penn State World Campus are sent to students' Penn State email accounts. Be sure to check your Penn State account regularly so you don't miss any important information. Or, Forward Your Penn State Email.

Academic Integrity – this is a big one!

This course follows the procedures for academic integrity of Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. Penn State defines academic integrity as "the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner." Academic integrity includes "a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception." In particular, the University defines plagiarism as "the fabrication of information and citations; submitting others' work from professional journals, books, articles, and papers; submission of other students' papers, lab results or project reports and representing the work as one's own." Penalties for violations of academic integrity may include course failure. To learn more, see Penn State's Academic Integrity Training for Students. This training is required for this course.

In this course, you are provided multiple resources from the outset to understand how to properly cite your work, incorporate sources into your own writing, and attribute accordingly. There is no tolerance for disregard for these conventions. For example, you can't copy someone's words directly and just put a citation after it. That's not enough. First offenses carry a zero on the assignment sanction if found responsible, and it goes up from there. Saying you didn't know it was wrong is not a viable excuse, I just told you it was wrong.

Can I use AI to help write my EME 432 assignments? *No.*

Course Copyright

All course materials students receive or to which students have online access are protected by copyright laws. Students may use course materials and make copies for their own use as needed, but unauthorized distribution and/or uploading of materials without the instructor's express permission is strictly prohibited. University Policy AD 40, the University Policy for the Recording of Classroom Activities and Note Taking Services addresses this issue. Students who engage in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials may be held in violation of the University's Code of Conduct, and/or liable under Federal and State laws.

- **What does this mean?** If I find someone has uploaded materials to any sort of 'study site', I will issue a takedown notice and I will pursue an Academic Integrity violation for facilitating dishonesty by others.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. The Student Disability Resources (SDR) website provides

contact information for every Penn State campus: Contacts for Disability Services at all Penn State Campuses. For further information, please visit the Student Disability Resources (SDR) website.

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodation with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodation.

Military Personnel

Veterans and currently serving military personnel and/or spouses with unique circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill/duty requirements, disabilities, VA appointments, etc.) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance, if possible, to the instructor in the case that special arrangements need to be made.

Change in Normal Campus Operations

In case of weather-related delays or other emergency campus disruptions or closures at the University, this online course will proceed as planned. Your instructor will inform you if there are any extenuating circumstances regarding content or activity due dates in the course due to these delays or closures. If you are affected by a weather-related emergency, please contact your instructor at the earliest possible time to make special arrangements.

Connect Online with Caution

Penn State is committed to educational access for all. Our students come from all walks of life and have diverse life experiences. As with any other online community, the lack of physical interaction in an online classroom can create a false sense of anonymity and security. While one can make new friends online, digital relationships can also be misleading. Good judgment and decision making are critical when choosing to disclose personal information with others whom you do not know.

Reporting Educational Equity Concerns

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated (see the University's AD29 Statement on Intolerance) and can be reported through Educational Equity via the Report Bias webpage.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention,

consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation. Services include the following:

> Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park (CAPS): 814-863-0395
>
> Counseling and Psychological Services at Commonwealth Campuses
>
> Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400
>
> Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

Attendance

This course will be conducted entirely online. There will be no set class meeting times (with the sole exception of our project presentation the week of April 12), but you will be required to complete assignments with specific due dates. Many of the assignments are open for multiple days. It is your responsibility to complete the work on time, which may require you to complete the work early if you plan to travel or participate in national holidays, religious observances, or University-approved activities.

If you need to request an exception due to a personal or medical emergency, contact the instructor directly as soon as you are able. The instructor's ability to accommodate you is dependent on the earliest possible notification. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Netiquette

The term "Netiquette" refers to the etiquette guidelines for electronic communications, such as e-mail and bulletin board postings. Netiquette covers not only rules to maintain civility in discussions, but also special guidelines unique to the electronic nature of forum messages. Please review some general Netiquette guidelines that should be followed when communicating in this course.

Mandated Reporting Statement

Penn State's policies require me, as a faculty member, to share information about incidents of sex-based discrimination and harassment (discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation) with Penn State's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators, regardless of whether the incidents are stated to me in person or shared by students as part of their coursework. For more information regarding the University's policies and procedures for responding to reports of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct, please visit Penn State's Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response website.

Additionally, I am required to make a report on any reasonable suspicion of child abuse in accordance with the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect

Penn State is "committed to creating an educational environment which is free from intolerance directed toward individuals or groups and strives to create and maintain an environment that fosters respect for others" as stated in Policy AD29 Statement on Intolerance. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment and to interact with civility.

For additional information, see:
- Penn State Affirmative Action non-discrimination statement
- Policy AD 85 Sexual and gender-based harassment and misconduct, Title IX
- Policy AD91 Discrimination and Harassment, and Related Inappropriate Conduct
- Penn State Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Penn State Values
- Action Together: Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Penn State
- Assessment of the Living, Learning, and Working Environment (ALLWE) in EMS | Penn State College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

Disclaimer

Please note that the specifics of this Course Syllabus can be changed at any time, and you will be responsible for abiding by any such changes. All changes will be communicated with you via email, course announcement and/or course discussion forum.