ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY ECONOMICS AND POLICY

BEPP/OIDD 263

Spring Semester 2018, Tu/Th 12:00-1:20PM, JMHH 245

Note: Due to potential guest speaker schedule changes, this syllabus might be updated slightly during the semester. Please check Canvas for the latest version.

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Course overview. This course examines environmental and energy issues from an economist’s perspective. Over the last several decades, energy markets have become some of the most dynamic markets of the world economy, as they experienced a shift from heavy regulation to market-driven incentives. First, we look at scarcity pricing and market power in electricity and gasoline markets. We then study oil and gas markets, with an emphasis on optimal extraction and pricing and geopolitical risks that investors in hydrocarbon resources face. We then shift gears to the sources of environmental problems, and how policy makers can intervene to solve some of these problems. We talk about the economic rationale for a broad range of possible policies: environmental taxes, subsidies, performance standards and cap-and-trade. In doing so, we discuss fundamental concepts in environmental economics, such as externalities, valuation of the environment and the challenge of designing international agreements. Next, we analyze the economics and finance of renewable energy and policies to foster its growth. Other topics include energy efficiency and transportation policies such as fuel-economy and electric vehicle standards.

Readings. A mix of newspaper articles, academic papers, reports, plus the following textbook: Nathaniel Keohane and Sheila Olmstead (KO), Markets and the Environment, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, second edition, 2016. Starred (*) readings are required. Many starred readings are short. Non-starred readings are optional but I will discuss them in class, and you are highly encouraged to read them if you need or want further background on a specific topic. The best way to use the readings is as a supplement to the lectures, which overlap partially (but certainly not perfectly!) with the readings. You will be responsible for required readings not covered in class.
Prerequisites. BEPP 250 or an equivalent intermediate microeconomics course is recommended, but an introductory microeconomics course (ECON1, or another course approved by the instructor) will be sufficient in most cases.

Attendance. Attendance is mandatory. Please email me in advance if you have a good reason not to attend a particular session.

Strategy games. Students will participate in two strategy games. The OPEC game is a series of simulations of the world oil market. Student teams represent countries and try to maximize profits by making output decisions that determine the world oil price. The Electricity Strategy Game is a simulation of an electricity market. Student teams manage a portfolio of generation units (coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewables) and bid into an electricity market.

Guest lectures. Students must attend the three scheduled guest lectures. These lectures will be joint with the MBA course Energy Markets and Policy (BEPP/OIDD 763) and will take place in JMHH 265 from 3:00-4:20PM. These lectures will be videotaped if you have a scheduling conflict, but you need to notify me in advance at the beginning of the semester. The content of the guest lectures is fair game for questions on assignments and exams. You are welcome to attend any other MBA guest lectures if the topic fits your interests.

Assignments and grading. Three equally weighted assignments (30%), an exam (40%), the OPEC Game (10%), the Electricity Strategy Game (10%) and class participation (10%). The three assignments are take-home. You may discuss assignments with other students but you need to formulate and submit answers on your own or joint with at most one other classmate. The exam will be on the last day of class (in the evening). You should plan to attend the exam. No exceptions.

Practice questions. A set of practice questions and solutions will be posted early in the semester. You can discuss them with the TA or with me during office hours if needed.

Cheating policy. It should not be necessary to say this – but for completeness: all students are expected to comply with the University of Pennsylvania’s Code of Academic Integrity. It is the policy of the Department, and this course, to immediately fail any student for the course who is in violation of the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. Cheating in any manner, on a graded assignment or exam, or violating the rules of the strategy games, will result in a failing grade for this course. Additional sanctions may be imposed of the Office of Student Conduct. The Code of Academic Integrity can be reviewed at: http://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity.

Electronics. No phones, but you can use laptops and tablets to take notes during lectures.

Other details. The course is included in Wharton/IGEL’s undergraduate concentration in Environmental Policy and Management, the Environmental Policy & Application major from the Earth & Environmental Science department, and in the University Interschool Minor in Sustainability and Environmental Management. Non-Wharton students are welcome and encouraged to contact the professor in advance to discuss prerequisites.
ELECTRICITY MARKETS

Lecture 1 (Jan 11): Course Introduction & Energy Overview


Lecture 2 (Jan 16): Market Efficiency and Scarcity Pricing

Topics: market efficiency; scarcity pricing; electricity markets; refined products markets.

(*) KO Chapter 4: “The Efficiency of Markets”.


Lecture 3 (Jan 18): Market Power in Electricity Markets (1)

Topics: market power; deregulation.


Lecture 4 (Jan 23): Market Power in Electricity Markets (2)

Topics: the California electricity crisis; the rise and fall of Enron.


OIL AND GAS MARKETS

Lecture 5 (Jan 25): Oil and Natural Gas Extraction and Pricing (1) & Introduction to the OPEC Game

Topics: trends in oil and gas reserves; optimal extraction; Hotelling model.

(*) KO Chapter 6: “Managing Stocks: Natural Resources as Capital Assets”.

(*) Lecture notes on the Hotelling model for optimal resource extraction (on Canvas).


Lecture 6 (Jan 30): Oil and Natural Gas Extraction and Pricing (2)

Topics: oil price volatility; oil price forecasting; oil futures.


The Strange Geopolitics of Rising Oil Prices”, The Economist, 11/26/17.

Lecture 7 (Feb 1): Upstream Investment under Uncertainty

Topics: NOCs vs. IOCs; upstream contracts; drilling investment under uncertainty; geopolitical risk; expropriations.

(*) A. Ulmer and C. Pons, “Venezuela Ordered to Pay Exxon $1.6 Billion for Nationalization”, Reuters, 10/9/14.
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Lecture 8 (Feb 6): Global Climate Change

Topics: climate change impacts; the climate change debate; discounting; risk and uncertainty.


Lecture 9 (Feb 8): Electricity Market Design and Policy

Guest speaker: Andrew Ott, CEO of PJM Interconnection

Topics: electricity market design; current developments in U.S. electricity markets; environmental policies for power markets.

Note: this lecture will be held outside the regular class time (3-4:20PM; JMHH 265).

Lecture 10 (Feb 13): Externalities and Policy Instruments & OPEC Group Meetings

Topics: environmental externalities; tragedy of the commons; Coase Theorem; property rights; taxes vs. subsidies vs. standards; effect of regulations on business; double dividend.

(*) KO Chapter 5: “Market Failures in the Environmental Realm”.

(*) KO Chapter 8: “Principles of Market-Based Environmental Policy”, pp. 139-162.


Lecture 11 (Feb 15): The Changing Landscape for Global Oil Companies

Guest speaker: Felipe Arbelaez, Regional President Latin America, BP
Topics: investment decisions in turbulent oil markets, geopolitical challenges, expropriation risk, pathways to cleaner energy, carbon regulation.

Note: this lecture will be held outside the regular class time (3-4:20PM; JMHH 265).

Lecture 12 (Feb 20): Cap-and-Trade

Topics: basics of cap-and-trade; cost-effectiveness; introduction to market design issues.

(*) Lecture notes on the economics of cap-and-trade (on Canvas).


Lecture 13 (Feb 22): Designing Real-World Environmental Markets

Topics: market design issues in cap-and-trade markets; EU Emissions Trading Scheme; RECLAIM; acid rain trading program.


Lecture 14 (Feb 27): OPEC Game Debriefing

Lecture 15 (Mar 1): Energy and Politics

Guest speaker: Congressman Ryan Costello (R-PA), Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

Topics: U.S. energy and climate politics; the role of the Environmental Protection Agency; federal policy vs. state and local interests; the Climate Solutions Caucus.


Note: this lecture will be held outside the regular class time (3-4:20PM; JMHH 265).
--- SPRING BREAK ---

Lecture 16 (Mar 13): **U.S. and Global Policy Developments & Introduction to the Electricity Strategy Game**

*Topics*: U.S. climate change policy; global carbon trading developments; emissions leakage.

(*) Student instructions for the Electricity Strategy Game (on Canvas).

(*) “Up in Smoke”, *The Economist*, 10/10/17.


Lecture 17 (Mar 15): **International Environmental Agreements**

*Topics*: international climate agreements; Kyoto Protocol; Montreal Protocol; free-riding; carbon offsets.


**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**


*Topics*: the “energy efficiency puzzle”; informational barriers and market failures; rebound effect; energy efficiency policies.


Lecture 19 (Mar 22): **Energy Efficiency (Continued)**


**THE ECONOMICS AND FINANCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Lecture 20 (Mar 27): **The Economics of Renewable Energy**

*Topics*: trends in renewable energy; levelized cost of electricity; environmental benefits of renewables.


Lecture 21 (Mar 29): **Renewable Energy Finance**

*Topics*: tax credits; tax equity; solar leasing; securitization; PACE; net metering; (S)RECs.


(*) Lecture notes on renewable portfolio standards and RECs (on Canvas).

Lecture 22 (Apr 3): **Renewable Energy Policy**

*Topics*: trade disputes; innovation subsidies; learning-by-doing; mix of subsidies; renewable portfolio standards; green subsidies vs. pollution taxes; regulatory uncertainty.


**VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Lecture 23 (Apr 5): **Market Valuation**

*Topics*: philosophical issues; use vs. non-use value; travel cost method; hedonic pricing; cost-benefit analysis; value of a statistical life.

(*) KO Chapter 3: “The Benefits and Costs of Environmental Protection”.

(*) Lecture notes on the travel cost method (on Canvas).


Lecture 24 (Apr 10): **Non-Market Valuation**

*Topics*: contingent valuation.

Lecture 25 (Apr 12): Electricity Strategy Game Debriefing

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Lecture 26 (Apr 17): Fuel-Economy Policy

Topics: policy developments in the car industry; fuel-economy standards; gasoline tax; electric vehicle policy.


(*) A. van Benthem and M. Reynaert, “Can Fuel-Economy Standards Save the Climate?”, The Economist, 7/16/15.

(*) V. McConnell, 2013. “The New CAFE Standards: Are They Enough on Their Own?”, RFF Discussion Paper 13-14, pp. 1-14 (Sections I and II; remainder is optional and less relevant for this course).

Lecture 27 (Apr 19): Unintended Policy Consequences & Course Wrap Up

Topics: congestion policies; enforcement; cheating; emissions leakage; course summary.


Lecture 28 (Apr 24): Exam

Note: the exam will be held outside the regular class time (6-8PM, JMHH 360). Class will not meet during the regular hours from 3-4:20PM.
PRELIMINARY DUE DATES

Assignment dates

Assignment 1: posted on February 1, due by February 15
Assignment 2: posted on March 1, due by March 22
Assignment 3: posted on April 5, due by April 19 (before class)

OPEC Game

January 25  Introduction to the OPEC game in class
January 31  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 1, period 1
February  2  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 1, period 2
February  6  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 2, period 1
February  7  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 2, period 2
February  8  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 2, period 3
February  9  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 2, period 4
February 13  OPEC group meetings in class
February 15  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 3, period 1
February 19  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 3, period 2
February 20  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 3, period 3
February 21  Production quantities due by 10pm for phase 3, period 4
February 27  OPEC strategy memo due before class
February 27  OPEC game debriefing in class

Electricity Strategy Game

March 13  Introduction to the Electricity Strategy Game in class
March 17  Bids due for the ESG test run
March 20  First ESG divestiture auction, in class
March 21  ESG strategies due by 10pm for year 1, day 1
March 23  ESG strategies due by 10pm for year 1, day 2
March 26  ESG strategies due by 10pm for year 1, day 3
March 27  Sealed portfolio bids for year 2 due by 10pm
March 29  ESG strategies due by 10pm for year 2, day 1
April  2   ESG strategies due by 10pm for year 2, day 2
April  4   ESG strategies due by 10pm for year 2, day 3
April 12   ESG strategy memo due before class
April 12   ESG debriefing in class

Exam

Tuesday April 24, 6-8PM, JMHH 360