

Heads-Up on Haas Undergraduate Course for Fall 2024


ENERGY AND CIVILIZATION (UGBA 193B)

T-Th 12:30-2:00 PM - N370 - Chou Hall

Instructors:

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Humanity's Future: Fear vs Hope- Two Worldviews



**Is top outcome preventable *and* bottom outcome possible?
Energy is the at the core of this question**

Energy is a major determinant for economic growth and societal wellbeing. Today the world appears to be on the cusp of a momentous paradigm shift in energy production and use. In this course we posit that two transitions are needed:

- 1) Benefits of modern energy system must be extended to the impoverished people living in the developing world while continuing to provide these benefits to the people of the developed world
- 2) Existing energy system must be overhauled to a truly sustainable *and* just energy system without attendant environmental, societal, and potentially unmanageable harms that have accompanied the current energy systems.

The Coronavirus pandemic exposed deep inequities in global social systems that tend to hamstring efforts to resolve society's biggest problems. Ongoing wars, one in Europe and the other in the Middle East, a renewed Big Power rivalry, and the fear of a renewed cold war have exacerbated these challenge.

The course broadly poses the following questions: **"Are these two energy transitions truly within our reach? Can we achieve both simultaneously? If yes, how?" How will the current global crises impact our energy transition challenges? Can the lessons from them be leveraged to pursue this larger goal?**

We look forward to helping our students grapple with these questions. We introduce a multidisciplinary systems approach to assess the wide variety of challenges humanity faces as it considers the desired transitions.

We examine the technological, societal, cultural, economic, management, structural, and political drivers of energy development over time and the associated diverse constraints that make problem-solving difficult in general, and addressing the issues raised by a sweeping energy transition in particular, hard.

We use this system's approach to explore the possibility of an environmentally and economically sustainable and a just energy future to benefit all people. Our students examine these in class discussions and through interesting group projects they define with faculty mentoring. **Won't you join us?**

Enrollment: Begin soon- We welcome Haas and non-Haas majors. *Non-majors can pre-enroll by manually adding yourselves to the waitlist. You will be added when Haas unlocks enrollment right before the semester begins.*

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Questions? please email us at:

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