Course:
This seminar will focus on understanding the role that energy plays in our environment and the effects that energy production and consumption have on the environment. Topics will include energy consumption, fossil fuels, heat engines, nuclear energy, renewable energy sources, energy conservation, pollution, climate change, and environmental spectroscopy. The first part of the seminar will consist of discussions based on readings and problem sets from Energy and the Environment by Ristinen and Kraushaar to provide a common background to build on in the project phase of the course. Since this is a research seminar class, students will team up in pairs and each team will develop a brief presentation on a chapter from the text and lead the class in discussion of material.

Attendance:
While attendance is not mandatory, it is expected that you will attend class on a regular basis and on the days in which you have to present. Material will be covered in a rapid fashion over the spring term covering about one chapter per week. Past experience dictates that your success in this class is directly proportional to your attending. The instructor does reserve the right to lower a grade due to excessive absences.

Course Grade:
Your course grade will be determined based on a professional judgment of your work on the following scale:

- Paper stage #1 10%
- Paper stage #2 10%
- Paper stage #3 30%
- Homework 10%
- Poster 20% (10% from peers)
- In-class presentation 20% (10% from peers)

SRS Paper:
The second part of the seminar includes a research project where each student will choose a topic on environmental science and use library and web resources to write a research paper. The research paper will be graded in three stages and the students will receive detailed comments and suggestions for improvements in each stage. Guidelines and references on scientific writing will be provided.
Stage 1: A written description of the proposed topic (your thesis) with an outline and annotated bibliography for the paper due on Monday April 12, 2010.
Stage 2: A complete rough draft of the paper with references due on Monday April 26, 2010.
Stage 3: The final paper due on Monday, May 24, 2010.

SRS Poster Session:
At the end of the course there will be an Energy and the Environment poster session in which each student will present a poster based on their research project. The poster presentations will be graded by the other students as well as the instructor on the last day of class. The poster presentation is scheduled for the common lunch hour (12:50pm – 1:40pm) on Friday, June 4, 2010.

Homework:
Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. The assignments will consist of readings in the textbook and problem sets and will be determined by you the student. The homework assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the day that they are due, and a subset of the problems will be graded in class. Some of the homework problems will be discussed during the class at which they are due and the solutions to the problems will be posted on the course website. Therefore, late homework will not be accepted under any conditions. Three of the homework grades will be dropped when the final course grade is computed.

Academic Honesty:
The College assumes that students will not resort to plagiarism, theft and mutilation of library books and periodicals, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Normally the penalty for academic dishonesty is failure in the course. Additional information is found in the booklet *Plagiarism: A Cautionary Word to Students*, furnished to all entering students and available from the Dean’s Office.

Student Disabilities:
Students requesting accommodations due to disabilities should inform the instructors by the second week of classes, and provide a letter (if applicable) from the Student Support Services Office.