

Syllabus for Energy & the Environment [LAW 5211/ 17513]
Prof. Daniella D. Landers
Adjunct Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center
Spring 2026 • TUESDAYS 5:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.
O'Quinn Law Building Room TBD

I. Required Course Materials

The *required* book for this course is ENERGY, ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (6th Edition), by Joel Eisen, Emily Hammond, Jim Rossi, David Spence and Hannah Wiseman (West Academic Publishing 2024). Course reading assignments will be primarily based on this text.

An *optional* book for this course is ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (5th Edition), by James Salzman & Barton H. Thompson (West Academic Publishing 2019). This book may be used as a primer for understanding the environmental law concepts and issues, esp. for those students who have not taken any similar courses.

II. Instructor Information

- Email: ddlanders@hotmail.com
- Office: O'Quinn Law Building – Adjunct Office
- Mobile number: 832-721-7486
- Office hours: TBD. I will establish my office hours based on the class's needs after the beginning of the semester. I am also often available immediately after class on most days and by appointment.

III. Teaching Objectives and Learning Outcome

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Understand the unifying characteristics of energy law as well as the connections to environmental issues affecting energy industries;
- Understand and identify overarching energy and environmental law principles, theories, and policies;
- Understand, identify, and articulate policy arguments commonly used in energy and environmental law;
- Articulate and express a well-informed opinion regarding related issues;
- Develop skills in legal analysis, reasoning, research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication related to energy and environmental law; and
- Draft an independent research paper regarding a topic or issue that *addresses both energy law and environmental law*, and do a presentation on the paper.

IV. Syllabus Changes

This document is a syllabus, not a contract. Therefore, it is subject to change. Any changes will be announced by me in class, posted on Canvas, or distributed via email to the entire class.

V. Reading Assignments

The reading assignments for the semester are listed on the Reading Assignments document attached hereto and posted on Canvas. Students are to prepare for each class by reading the entire assignment for the day before attending class. I plan for us to cover one assignment per class period. However, there will be days when it may take us more or less than one class period to cover an assignment. You are responsible for keeping track of what assignment number we are on throughout the semester. I will do my best to tell the class if I think we will not reach or complete the next day's assignment. If you miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to check with a classmate to determine whether the class finished the entire assignment on the day you missed.

VI. Class Preparation and Participation

I call on students randomly, although I typically announce a two- or three-student panel at the beginning of each class. If I call on you and you are unprepared, you will be marked absent for that day. If you are unprepared on the date you are assigned to present on the panel, your final grade for the course may be reduced by 1/3 (e.g., an A- becomes a B+).

VII. Final Paper in Lieu of Final Examination

There will be no final exams in this class. In lieu of a final exam, each student is required to submit a Final Paper that covers any energy and environmental research topic of the student's choice that is pre-approved by the professor and related to the course. The Final Paper must be typewritten, 25 pages minimum (excluding citations), double-spaced, and properly cited using appropriate *Bluebook* format. **A complete hard copy draft of the Final Paper must also be timely submitted for review in advance by April 7, 2026. The revised Final Paper (in lieu of a final exam) must be turned via the EBB Portal on or before May 5, 2026, by no later than 4:00 p.m. (CT) in order to be considered timely.**

- **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE. ONCE THE FINAL PAPER HAS BEEN SUBMITTED VIA THE EBB PORTAL, IT MAY NOT BE RETRIEVED OR RESUBMITTED.**

VIII. Attendance Requirements

A. Absences

Any student missing **more than four (4) classes** will be dropped from the course. **There are no excused absences.**

B. Tardiness

I respect your time and education by doing my best to start and end our class meetings on time. Please be on time, seated, and ready to go before I begin class.

IX. Professionalism

My classroom is a learning space where each student is treated with respect and dignity and where everyone is provided the opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran's status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status, or identity. I encourage you to speak up and share your views appropriately throughout the semester. I also expect every class member to remember that in this learning environment, we will engage respectfully and with professionalism toward each other. In the words of the Texas Lawyer's Creed, "[a] lawyer should always adhere to the highest principles of professionalism." Professionalism comprises attributes like civility, courtesy, respect, candor, fairness, and ethical behavior. As a lawyer-in-training, I expect this professionalism from you. I hold myself to the same standard.

X. The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Is Strictly Prohibited in this Course

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is strictly prohibited in this course. Thus, using AI or AI-generated text for formal assessments (such as your midterm or final exams), informal assessments (such as drafting essay answers to hypothetical problems), extra credit assignments, or group or individual exercises and activities is not permitted. This prohibition includes any work product created for this course that is submitted to the instructor, a tutor, or presented in a class session. This prohibition applies whether the material is to be graded or ungraded. This prohibition applies whether the assessment, assignment, exercise, or activity is prepared in or outside of class. Your writings for this course are to be your own work composed without the aid of AI.

XI. Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in this course syllabus.

Please note the Honor Code's plagiarism policy and its prohibition against receiving unauthorized aid or using unauthorized materials. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be your pledge under the Honor Code that, among other things, your work product in this course is without any contribution from AI or AI-generated text. Accordingly, pursuant to the Honor Code, you may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. The use of AI-generated text will be treated as engaging in plagiarism in violation of the Honor Code.

XII. Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following: 80% based on your final paper; 10% based on your draft paper; and 10% based on class participation and attendance.

XIII. Important Dates

First Day of class – 1/20/26

Research Paper Topics Due – 2/24/26

Spring Break – No classes Mon 3/16/26 to Fri 3/20/26. Classes resume 3/24/26

Draft Research Paper Due – 4/7/26 (Hard copy submitted in class)

In-Class Student Presentations on Research Paper– 4/21/26

Last Day of Class – 4/28/26

Final Paper in Lieu of Final Exam Due – Tues. 5/5/26 at 4pm CT via EBB Portal

XIV. Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Pursuant to the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

XV. Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible to its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment, or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website at <https://uh.edu/accessibility/>, by calling (713) 743-5400, or by emailing: jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

XVI. Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has several resources to support students’ mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App:

- UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment, and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops, and connections to other support services on and off campus. For assistance, visit: uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let’s Talk location in person or virtually. Let’s Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.
- The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

- The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.
- If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, you call or text 988 or go to 988lifeline.org.

XVII. Other Helpful UH Resources

UH Non-Discrimination Statement

LGBTQ Resource Center

Cougars in Recovery

UH Veteran Services

Cougar Cupboard

DACA: What You Need to Know

Student Health Center & Campus Pharmacy UH Wellness

XVIII. Recording of Classes Not Permitted

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make or distribute screen captures without the advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. The instructor may record classes. Students may use the instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

STUDENT READING ASSIGNMENTS –SPRING 2026
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT [UHCL LAW 5211]
TUESDAYS, 5:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.

Jan. 20: Course Introduction; Common Themes	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 1 *(ST) Chs. 1-2</i>
Jan. 27: Public Utility Predicates to Modern Energy	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 2</i>
Feb. 3: Water (Hydro) Power	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 6 *(ST) Ch. 7</i>
Feb. 10: Oil & Gas Production	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 4</i>
Feb. 17: Oil & Gas Pipelines	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 9</i>
Feb. 24: Controlling Externalities of Fossil Fuels	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 5 *(ST) Ch. 6</i>
*TOPICS FOR PAPERS DUE TODAY – Notification of paper topic due by end of class.	
Mar. 3: Nuclear Energy	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 7</i>
Mar. 10: Renewable Energy & Case Studies	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Chs. 11-12 *(ST) Ch.11</i>
Mar. 16-21: NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 24: Electric Power Markets	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 10 & additional reading materials</i>
Mar. 31: Conservation, Efficiency	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch.13 & additional reading materials</i>
Apr. 7: Transportation/Electric Vehicles	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 15</i>
* DRAFT PAPERS DUE TODAY – Bring hard copy to class; 25 pages min. (excl. citations), double-spaced	
Apr. 15: International Energy Markets	<i>Reading Assignment: (B) Ch. 14</i>
Apr. 21: *IN-CLASS STUDENT PRESENTATIONS ON PAPER DRAFTS & DISCUSSION	
Apr. 28: *IN-CLASS STUDENT PRESENTATIONS ON PAPER DRAFTS & DISCUSSION	
May 5: *FINAL PAPERS DUE TODAY – Due by 4:00 p.m. CT via the EBB Portal	

REQUIRED COURSE BOOK:

(B) = Refers to Energy, Economics and the Environment (6th Edition) by J. Eisen, E. Hammond, et al.

** Please note that additional reading assignments may be distributed and/or posted on certain topics.

OPTIONAL COURSE BOOK (RECOMMENDED IF NO PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COURSES):

(ST) = Refers to Environmental Law and Policy (5th Edition) by J. Salzman & B. Thompson (or similar primer)

Contact me directly if there are any questions or problems: Phone: 832.721.7486 * Email: ddlanders@hotmail.com