

## **RESEARCH SEMINAR: ENERGY POLICY/CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Tentative Intensive Short Course**

**Course Number:** LITG 8076

**Semester:** Spring 2011

**Professor:** Tomain

**Credits:** 2 Classroom

**Primary Basis for the Grade:** Seminar Paper; Letter Grade

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment:** Limited to 20; Please complete a Limited Enrollment Lottery Form.

**Meets Seminar Requirement?** Yes

**Meets Writing Requirement?** Yes

**Meets Client Counseling Requirement?** No

**Meeting Times:**

**Location:**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Climate change is clearly an environmental problem and environmental law and lawyers are front and center in addressing this matter. This course, though, comes at climate change from a different angle – the relationship between energy law & policy and climate change. Before we can fully understand any climate change proposal we must understand the traditional assumptions underlying energy policy and then understand that that policy must be replaced with a new set of assumptions. We must also understand the policy making process in order to assess the likelihood of any climate change proposal being adopted.

This seminar will introduce you to the regulatory process and the model of government regulation, and introduce you to the assumptions which have led to an energy policy which is over a century old and to the need for adopting a new set of assumptions which are more responsive to the energy and environmental needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will also explore the relationship between government and markets. Whether you practice corporate law, environmental law, labor & employment law, or even something as local as zoning and planning law, you will confront government regulation in your law practices. The take away value of the course, then, is to understand the relationship between government and markets because these two spheres of daily life are inextricably intertwined and they are unavoidable in the practice of law (or business or politics for that matter.)

Any response to climate change must address energy policy past, present, and future. This seminar will examine the development of traditional US energy policy, criticize the assumptions on which it is based, and will offer alternative assumptions upon which an environmentally sensitive future energy policy can be developed.

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