**EAS 375**

**Lecture questions**

**Origin of coal and coal mining**

**1. What led to the first energy crisis in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries and how it solved?**

Diminishing availability of wood, replaced with coal.

**2. Describe the formation of coal and which factor that is most important in its formation?**

The key to the formation of coal is the preservation of organic matter. It can form in swamps and marshes, where organic/plant matter accumulates.

**3. During combustion, which coal produces the most heat and least amount of undesirable byproducts?**

Anthracite (least common, most desirable).

**4. Describe the formation of a cyclothem?**

Repeated stratigraphic succession of marine and non-marine sediments.

**5 What is the underlying cause for the formation of high sulfur coals?**

Sulfur comes from sulfate minerals that occur with marine sediments.

**6. Why are western Eocene coals from Wyoming and Utah do desirable?**

No marine influence – low sulfur

**7. What is “mountain top mining” and why is it so destructive?**

Mountain top removal, by cut and fill. Removes a large amount of land. Can lead to disasters for town. Destroy landscape, pollute streams.

**8. What led to the drastic drop in mining accidents following World War II/**

New Technology. + production - accidents, facilities, labor force

**9. Discuss both the positive and negative aspects of the railroads in supplying coal to utility generation plants.**

Very efficient way, with continuous loading.

Two railroad system to move coal across US – Monopolies. Railroad control price of coal