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Information: This course is an introduction to physics principles as they apply to solar and renewable energy and an introduction to direct applications of solar and other alternative energy sources. We will begin by studying energy use, mechanical and thermal energy physics topics, basic electricity, sources of energy, and then focus on applications of direct solar and wind energy conversion systems. We will also look at energy storage and other sources of renewable energy. PHYS 161 and 162 both start by studying basic physics principles before branching into different areas of focus. (PHYS 161 focuses on current popular energy sources and the environmental impact from energy use.)

This is a 4 credit hour course that meets three hours a week. The extra hour is outside learning that comes from reading and activity assignments. There are three sources for learning. The lectures use demonstrations to show physics principles and highlight areas from the reading. The homework helps you learn how to juggle numbers and learn to calculate energy usage and savings. The third source is the course homepage with links to information. Active learning is always rewarded in this course.

Course Grading:
Homework and Class Lecture Activities Home Lab Exercises 30%
2 Midterm Exams: 20% each
Final Exam: 30%

Homework will be submitted using Blackboard. It is your responsibility to get connected and find the information located at the Blackboard site. http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/
No late homework or reports will be accepted. Late homework will not be accepted due to grading hassles.
The exams will be multiple choice, problem solving and essay.
There is some room for adjustment in the schedule and I will update the website regularly. It is your responsibility to find out what announcements were made and what was discussed in class if you miss a lecture. Please let me know what your interests are and I can try and adjust the course to meet your interest.