

**\*DEADLINES:**

REGULAR COURSE PROPOSALS: OCTOBER 23, 1998 FOR FALL, 1999 AND FEBRUARY 19, 1999 FOR SPRING, 2000  
 SHORT-TERM COURSE PROPOSALS: DECEMBER 11, 1998 FOR FALL, 1999 AND MARCH 26, 1998 FOR SPRING 2000

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

**SPONSOR/S:** H. CLAY GREEN, Associate Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** MECHANICAL ENGINEERING 0910.514

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

UNDERGRADUATE       GRADUATE

**COLLEGE:** ENGINEERING

**If LAS:**       History/Humanities  
                    Math/Sciences  
                    Social/Behavioral Sciences

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**TYPE OF PROPOSAL. (Check ALL that Apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> General Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Course (NOT Gen. Ed.)
<input type="checkbox"/> New Course in _____ Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change (Dept., School, Major)
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing course, Add To _____ Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in Degree Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural/Global Designation	<input type="checkbox"/> Changes Involve Gen. Ed. requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Intensive Designation	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor Changes to Existing Courses
<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor/Concentration/Specialization	<input type="checkbox"/> Course is NOT General Education
<input type="checkbox"/> New Major/Degree Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Course IS General Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Short Term Course Proposal	

**DEPARTMENT**  
 (SIGNATURE INDICATES APPROVAL)

[Signature]      10/22/98      [Signature]      10/22/98

DEPT. CURRICULUM CHAIR / DATE      DEPT. CHAIRPERSON / DATE

<p><b>COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE</b>                  DATE OF OPEN HEARING (if necessary) _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED  <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED</p> <p>COMMENTS:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>      3/22/99                  SIGNATURE      DATE</p>	<p><b>ACADEMIC DEAN (&amp; GRADUATE DEAN, for New Graduate Programs Only)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED  <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED</p> <p>COMMENTS:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>      10/23/98                  SIGNATURE (Academic Dean)      DATE</p> <p>_____                  SIGNATURE (Graduate Dean)      DATE</p>
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**UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

DATE OF OPEN HEARING (if necessary) 2/10/99 (College level only)

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

COMMENTS:

Jamette Reeves 4/1/99  
SIGNATURE DATE

**SENATE**

Date announced at Senate 2/23/99

Voted upon at Senate:                      Approved                      Not Approved                      Date:

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST**

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED If no, reasons are as follows:

STUDENT CREDIT HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ FACULTY LOAD HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ EQUALIZED CREDIT HOURS \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICIAL COPY & APPROVAL SHEET FILED (DATE): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/SIGNATURE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST [Signature]

**REGISTRAR**

DATE APPROVED COURSE DESCRIPTION RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

HEGIS TAXONOMY & COURSE NUMBER ASSIGNED 0910.514

DATE/SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR Robert C. Kubat 4/14/99

**NOTIFICATION FORWARD:**

SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

ACADEMIC DEAN(S)

REGISTRAR

SPONSOR(S)

TMA 4/22/99

## Course Proposal

### 1. Details:

- a) Course Title: Energy Conversion Systems (0910.514)
- b) Sponsor: Dr. H. Clay Gabler, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering
- c) Credit Hours: 3 credit hours
- d) Course Level: Graduate
- e) Curricular Effect: A graduate elective for Masters of Science in Engineering majors. May also be taken by Chemical, Civil or Electrical Engineering majors, if they meet prerequisites.
- f) Prerequisites: Engineering Thermodynamics II (910.312) and Fluids I (901.341), or equivalent courses.
- g) Suggested Time/  
Scale of Implementation: Fall 1999  
One section
- h) Resources:

Faculty is in place to teach the course within the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering. A 1130 square foot thermodynamics and engine laboratory, is in place which will be used in support of this course. Library resources are in place. Computer hardware resources are available in the Henry M. Rowan Hall to support this course. No new software resources are required.

### 2. Rationale:

The proposed course is part of the Engineering Curriculum Proposal approved by the College Senate in December 1994. The proposed course is consistent with the establishment of the School of Engineering approved by the Board of Trustees in February 1995.

Energy Conversion Systems introduces graduate-engineering students to the important area of power generation systems. Knowledge of power generation systems is vital for many career paths in the energy services industry. The deregulation of the electric power industry and increasingly strict environmental regulations on power producers require that students of this subject have a fundamental understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of both existing and emerging power generation technologies.

### 3. Essence of the Course:

#### a) Objectives:

Engineering Thermodynamics II briefly introduces Mechanical Engineering Students to the concept of thermal power generation cycles. The primary objective of the course Energy Conversion Systems, is to provide students with insight into state-of-the-art technologies for

electrical power generation and the environmental consequences of these technologies. This course differs from the undergraduate course “Introduction to Energy Conversion systems” in that the graduate course will require completion of an in-depth semester long design project, and additional independent reading from the literature.

The following are the specific objectives of this course:

1. Compute Heating Value of Gas-Phase Fuels
2. Equilibrium Concentrations of Fuel Oxidation Products
3. Compute Adiabatic Flame Temperature
4. Derive Overall Rate Expressions for Gas Phase Pollutant Formation
5. Compute mass rate of vaporization for liquid fuel droplets
6. Compute Coal Char Combustion Rates
7. Compute Nuclear Fuel Number Densities and Macroscopic Fission Cross-sections
8. Compute the thermal heat generation rate in a nuclear reactor fuel pin.

**b) Topical Outline:**

The topical outline of the course may vary to some extent depending on the interests of the instructor and the students, and the advances in engineering technology. The topics to be covered will include the following:

1. Review of Power Cycles and Cycle Analysis
  - 1.1. High Efficiency Steam Power Cycles
  - 1.2. High Efficiency Gas Turbine Cycles
  - 1.3. Advanced Gas Turbine Cycles
  - 1.4. Combined Cycle Technology and Systems
2. Gaseous Fuels
  - 2.1. Production
  - 2.2. Composition
  - 2.3. Thermodynamics
  - 2.4. Kinetics
  - 2.5. Gas-phase Pollutants
3. Liquid Fuels
  - 3.1. Production
  - 3.2. Composition

- 3.3. Fuel Properties
- 3.4. Atomization
- 3.5. Droplet Combustion
- 3.6. Coking
- 3.7. Slagging and Ash
- 3.8. Alternative Liquid Fuels
- 4. Solid Fuels
  - 4.1. Production
  - 4.2. Coal Structure and Composition
  - 4.3. Devolatilization
  - 4.4. Char Combustion
- 5. Nuclear Energy
  - 5.1. Nuclear Fission
  - 5.2. Nuclear Core Design
  - 5.3. Reactor Steam Supply Systems
- 6. Direct Energy Conversion and Fuel Cells
- 7. Environmental Control
  - 7.1. Pollutant Generation Mechanisms
  - 7.2. NO<sub>x</sub>
  - 7.3. SO<sub>x</sub>
  - 7.4. Organic Emissions
  - 7.5. Inorganic Particulates
- 8. Alternative Energy Sources

**c) Evaluation and Grading Procedure of Students:**

Student grades will be determined on the basis of examinations, homework and/or projects, laboratory projects and reports.

**d) Course Evaluation:**

The proposed course will be evaluated on the basis of student evaluations and curriculum review by appropriate faculty.

**4. Results of Consultations:**

The proposed course is part of the Engineering Curriculum Proposal approved by the Faculty Senate in December 1994. Consultations were submitted with original proposal as specified by the Curriculum Committee. Additional curriculum consultations were performed with outside consultants including, Professor Skip Fletcher of Texas, A&M. Professor Fletcher is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

**Catalog Description:**

**Energy Conversion Systems (0910.514)**

*Prerequisites: Engineering Thermodynamics II (910.312) and Fluids I (901.341), or equivalent courses.*

This course will introduce energy conversion technologies for the generation of electrical power. Topics will include a review of power cycles, steam and gas cycles, generation of thermal power, combustion and fuels, steam power plant design considerations, gas turbine power plant operation and design considerations, combined cycles, co-generation, nuclear power, alternative energy sources, fuel cells, and environmental considerations in power generation. A course project will be required on an advanced topic of mutual interest between the student and instructor.