CEEN 525 – Energy Policy

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Discussion Questions for January 17, 2017

1. For you policy brief, what country would you like to work on? Can you find the government department (ministry) that is responsible for energy policy in that country, and who currently is in charge of it?
2. What are Victor’s 3 myths about the policy process? Do you agree with his characterization of the engineer’s myth?
3. What are, according to Victor, the 3 central political challenges that make climate policy so deeply challenging? Do you see one of those challenges as more important than another?
4. According to Unruh, what is path dependence, and how does it relate to increasing returns to scale?
5. What is a techno-institutional complex? Be prepared to identify the elements of a techno-institutional complex in the energy system.
6. Do you find his arguments that the superior technology did not necessarily win out convincing (e.g., AC over DC, ICE over alternatives)?
7. What is carbon lock-in, and how can it be overcome?
8. According to Kahan et al, does increased knowledge about climate change produce more support for acting to slow it? Why or why not?
9. What is the cultural cognition thesis? How do they operationalize and measure culture?
10. What does the cultural cognition thesis imply for science communication?
11. Are engineers less susceptible to motivated reasoning than others?