Course description: Public utility services are indispensable to individuals, societies, and economies. These services have long been subject to government regulation. This course examines the reasons for and against regulation and how policies are evolving in today’s increasingly competitive world. Emphasis is placed on the regulation of electricity, natural gas, telecommunications and water. Prerequisite: Junior standing, Econ 200, Math 105 or 120; or permission of instructor.

Class meets in Beatty Center 212 Tuesday and Thursday at 1:40

Contact information – bilasr@cofc.edu and 843-437-5736 (cell)

Office hours: By appointment at times and places to be determined.

Course outline: Parts I and II of the text will be covered as lectures and class discussion. This part of the course will be covered in the first five weeks and these discussions will in large part be based on the instructor’s approximately fifteen years as a regulator in California -- first as a commissioner with the California Energy Commission and then as a commissioner with the California Public Utilities Commission. For Part III of the text there will be discussion but also small group presentations on the four regulated industries. Students will be assigned to a group to study one of the industries and each student will be required to make a class presentation. Each group will be required to turn in a paper of no more than 15 pages for final grading.

Grading: There will be a mid-term exam on a date to be determined and a final paper as noted above.

The School of Business learning goals for this course are:

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** Students will demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive manner.

**QUANTITATIVE FLUENCY:** Students will demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.

**GLOBAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY:** Students will be able to identify and define social, ethical, environmental and economic challenges at local, national and international levels. Students will also be able to integrate knowledge and skills in addressing these issues.
INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY: Students will be able to demonstrate their resourcefulness and originality in addressing extemporaneous problems.

SYNTHESIS: Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines incorporating learning from both classroom and non-classroom settings in the completion of complex and comprehensive tasks.

GOALS FOR THIS COURSE:
1. to understand economic efficiency in a world of monopolies
2. to evaluate current regulatory policies
3. to assess the introduction of competition as a replacement for heavy handed regulation

YOU ARE TO ABIDE BY THE HONOR CODE OF THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON. NOTE THE FOLLOWING:
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.
Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php

SNAP STUDENTS ARE TO SEE THE INSTRUCTOR AFTER THE FIRST CLASS.

Students approved for SNAP Services are instructed to meet with each of their professors during the first two weeks of classes or as soon as they are approved for services to discuss accommodations and present a copy of their SNAP-issued Professor Notification Letter (PNL). Though it is the student’s responsibility to initiate discussion regarding accommodations that may be needed, an announcement on your syllabus or in class encouraging them to do so would be helpful. Students will feel more comfortable about identifying themselves as having a disability if they are approaching someone they believe to be receptive to the discussion. Such an invitation can go a long way toward encouraging students with a disability to approach the instructor early in the course.

Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with me after class or see

Deborah Freel Mihal, MSW
Director, Center for Disability Services
A MEMBER OF THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Lightsey Center, Suite 104
843.953.1431

Center for Student Learning: I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and they are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call (843)953-5635.

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR:

Dr. Bilas is a retired academician and bureaucrat. He spent twenty-five years as a university professor having taught at The University of Southern California, Georgia State University, The University of Colorado, California State University, Bakersfield, and The University of Oklahoma. At California State University, Bakersfield he held the
E. C. Reid Professorship in Economics and at The University of Oklahoma he held the John A. and Donnie Brock Chair in Energy Economics and Policy. He is the author of three books and numerous articles in professional journals. In addition, he has been a radio talk show host, a television commentator and a contributor of many op-ed pieces. Dr. Bilas also served two California Governors as a member of The California Energy Commission and The California Public Utilities Commission, serving from 1987 thru early 2002. He has an AB in Mathematics from Duke University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Virginia. He is an Adjunct Professor of Economics at the College of Charleston, was a member of the Board of Directors of Drawing Near to God Ministry and is an ordained minister in the Anglican Church in North America. Dr. Bilas was also a member of the Advisory Board of Eco Friendly Energy – a California based company – until the end of 2015.