

Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Florence

Course Code / Title: (FL/POLI 377) International Energy Policy: Oil, Gas, and Green Technologies

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / Environmental Studies, International Relations, History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Prior coursework in Political Science recommended

Description

Energy is a growing field of inquiry: from extractive operations to waste products, energy resources pose a wide array of environmental, political, and socio-economic challenges that individuals and governments around the globe must confront. The course offers a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary perspective on global energy markets. At times of anthropogenic climate changes, the analysis of energy commodities implies broader discussions around notions of sustainability, environmental justice, and transition to a post-oil economy. Furthermore, energy is a geopolitical factor of integration and disintegration. As such, it is framed as a national security issue driving foreign policy agendas in both exporting and importing countries. Most importantly, energy is part of our everyday life, shaping patterns of consumption and ways of living. Therefore, the course encompasses different disciplinary angles (History, International Relations, Energy Economics, and Political Ecology) in order to provide insights into the complexities of international energy policy.

Objectives

The course's primary objective is to develop effective knowledge of the role energy plays in contemporary industrial societies and along different dimensions, including environmental governance, international relations, human rights, and new technologies. Both traditional energy sources and "green" alternatives are examined. The purpose is to establish a basis for understanding past and present developments in the energy realm. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze current and potential energy challenges across different world regions, connect global trends to local realities, and find and use reliable data about energy issues.

Course Requirements

Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Participation is evaluated on the basis of students' contributions to various activities during class lectures. Students are expected to keep up with readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. In addition to compulsory readings, students are also expected to be up to date on the latest news about energy issues. Graded assignments include:

- Three written assignments: typically 2000-2500 word papers on given topics

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- Quiz: one unannounced quiz with a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer questions
- Presentation: 30 minute oral presentation on a topic determined in consultation with the faculty member
- Midterm and Final Exams: essay based exams that cover all material, assignments, readings and class activities and lectures.

Grading:

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 20%
- Assignments & Pop Quiz: 20%
- Oral Presentation: 10%
- Mid-term Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%

Readings

Black, Brian C. *Crude Reality: Petroleum in World History*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012

Bridge, Gavin and Philippe le Billon. *Oil*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013

Hughes, J. David. *Drill Baby Drill: Can Unconventional Fuels Usher in a New Era of Energy Abundance?* CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013

Marcel, Valerie. *Oil Titans: National Oil Companies in the Middle East*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2006

Venn, Fiona. *The Oil Crisis*. Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge, 2017

Selected articles and primary sources

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Introduction

- Debunking Myths
- Essential Glossary

Topic 2: Historical Context

- From Steam to Oil, 1850-1950
- The Golden Age of Oil, 1950-1973
- The Oil Crisis in the 1970's and Beyond

Topic 3: Oil as a Source of Conflict

Topic 4: Energy Use in the EU and the US

- EEC Commission and European Energy Policy
- EU Energy Roadmap 2050

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- Gasoline in the US

Topic 5: Energy Security

Topic 6: Country Profiles

- Saudi Arabia
- Venezuela
- Iran and the Gulf Monarchies

Topic 7: Global Trends

- Shale Oil and Shale Gas
- Nuclear Energy Past and Future
- Renewables: Wind, Hydropower, Solar, Biomass, Geothermal Energy
- Green Energy: A Real Alternative?
- Energy Savings and Efficiency
- Environmental Justice
- Extractivism