

POLS 4349: International Energy Politics
Spring 2015

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Class Time: 1:00-2:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays, M106
Office Hours: Mondays, 10am-12pm (or by appointment)

Course Description:

Modernity has been defined by an increasing use of energy, especially from fossil fuels. This course looks at the international and comparative political implications of human efforts to acquire and utilize energy resources. The focus of this course is on the implications of energy use in an international context. This means we will spend only a little time dealing with US energy policy. Instead, we will be primarily focusing on how the search for energy affects relations between countries and domestic politics in energy producing and consuming countries.

Students should leave the course with a strong understanding of the history and future of international energy politics. In particular, students should be conversant in the development and internationalization of energy politics from the establishment of an international oil and natural gas market to concerns about the implications of fossil fuel use on the global environment. Readings and videos have been selected to reflect a variety of views, with which students will critically engage.

Assignments and Grading:

Students will be asked to write a 5 page policy memo (not including works cited, tables and figures) on a topic of their choosing. This memo should address an issue which the student thinks is important for the target audience – a policy-maker dealing in energy policy. The memo can utilize the readings, discussion in class, outside resources, and the student's own logic to build a solid argument. Students will be graded on how well they support their argument(s) and the quality of their research. All direct references and quotations should be referenced using both in-text and bibliographic citation (See "Guidelines for Writing Policy Memos" and "APA Citation Guide" on Blackboard). **DO NOT WAIT TO START ON THIS!** Writing a good 5 page policy memo is just as difficult and time-consuming as writing a 20 page research paper. You should select at topic early and start researching. Memos should be single-spaced with double-spacing between paragraphs and should strategically use bullet points, numbering, and substructure.

Students will also complete a midterm and a final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, list identifications, and essay questions. Review sheets for the exams will be distributed at least a week prior to the test.

The reading load for the course is sometimes heavy. Students should prioritize the readings and read primarily for content, making notes as the course progresses of material that will be useful for their posts, exams, and papers (see "Reading for Research" note on Blackboard).

Finally, students will be graded on their participation in class. This participation is operationalized in terms of both quantity and quality of participation. Discussion will be an important part of this class, and **student should have read and be ready to discuss the readings and videos before coming to class**. Each student will have two unexcused absences, after which each additional absence will reduce the student's participation score. Attendance will be taken starting in the second week of class. **In both the classroom and online discussion, please be respectful and courteous to your classmates.**

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	150 pts.
Policy Memo	100 pts.
Class participation	20 pts.
Total	370 pts.

Readings:

There are no books required for this class. All readings are available on the Blackboard course website. **Students should familiarize themselves with the Blackboard website as soon as possible!!!**

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. The Department of Political Science adheres to the University Policy on Academic Honesty:

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/general/acade2.html#honesty>

Plagiarism via the internet is not only dishonest, it's also liable to be caught. Papers copied from the internet do not fit well with course-specific writing prompts and search engines make finding the plagiarized material very easy. In addition, faculty at the University of Houston use a database designed specifically to catch plagiarism from the internet, previously submitted papers (from all participating universities), and purchased papers.

If you are caught plagiarising a paper, the standard punishment is failure in the course and reporting to the university. If this is not your first offense, plagiarism can result in more severe punishments and jeopardize your future at the University of Houston.

To protect yourself from charges of plagiarism, and to get in the habit of using proper citation, you should reference a style sheet for a major citation format (MLA, Tarabian, APA, APSA, etc.) and use it to properly cite your resources in your papers. A short APA style sheet is available for your reference on Blackboard.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Center for Students with DisABILITIES will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The CSD is located in CSD Building #568, Room #110, telephone (713) 743-5400, TDD (713) 749-1527, <http://www.uh.edu/csd/index.htm>.

As a matter of policy, it is up to the student to inform the teacher of any disabilities or difficulties that need accommodation as soon as possible -- including everything from travel plans, family emergencies, difficulties seeing slides or the board, etc. I cannot accommodate needs about which I do not know.

Outline of Readings and Topics:

Week 1: Introduction to course (1/21)

Overview of course goals, objectives and structure. Introduction to course resources and expectations. On Wednesday, we will be watching the first video of The Prize together and discussing it. (Start on readings for the next week as well!!!)

– Watch The Prize video documentary on PBS [Available on You Tube – links provide on Blackboard].

Week 2: Oil and the Internationalization of Energy (1/26, 1/28) (1/27 – Last day to add classes.)

- Watch The Prize video documentary by PBS.
- National Academy of Science. 2008. “What You Need to Know About Energy.”
- Muller, Richard A. 2008. *Physics for Future Presidents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (pages 65-76).
- Yergin, Daniel. 2011. *The Quest*. New York: Penguin Press. (pages 83-105)
- Marcel, Valerie. 24 August 2009. “States of Play.” *ForeignPolicy.com*. [pdf on Blackboard]
- Marcel, Valerie. 2006. *Oil Titans*. Baltimore, MD: Brookings Institute. (pages 14-36).
- Levi, Michael. 2013. “America's Energy Opportunity.” *Foreign Affairs* 92(3): 92-104.

Week 3: The Emergence of Natural Gas (2/2, 2/4) (2/4 – Last day to drop without a grade.)

- Encyclopedia Britannica, “Natural Gas, Consumption Of.”
- Encyclopedia Britannica, “Natural Gas, Processing and Conversion Of.”
- Hefner III, Robert A. 2014. “The United States of Gas.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(3): 9-14.
- Krupp, Fred. 2014. “Don't Just Drill, Baby – Drill Carefully.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(3): 15-20.
- Stokstad, Erik. 2014. “Will Fracking Put Too Much Fizz in Your Water?” *Science* 344(6191): 1468-1471.
- Goldwyn, David L. 2014. “Refreshing European Energy Security Policy: How the US Can Help.” Brookings Institution. [pdf available on Blackboard]

Week 4: The Natural Resource Curse I -- Economics (2/9, 2/11)

- Radon, Jenik. 2005. “The ABCs of Petroleum Contracts: License-Concession Agreements, Joint Ventures, and Production-sharing Agreements.” In Svetlana Tsalik and Anya Schiffrin (eds.). *Covering Oil: A Reporter’s Guide to Energy and Development*. New York: Open Society Institute. (p. 61-85)
- Michael L. Ross. 1999. “The Political Economy of the Resource Curse.” *World Politics* 51: 297-322.
- William Ascher. 1999. *Why Governments Waste Natural Resources*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (Chapter 1, “Introduction,” p. 1-31.)
- Nagel, Jaun. 2014. “The World’s Cheapest Gas? Not for Long.” *Foreign Policy Online* (August 12). Available online:
http://transitions.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2014/08/12/the_worlds_cheapest_gas_not_for_long. [Last Accessed 8/19/2013.]
- Tsalik, Svetlana. 2003. *Caspian Oil Windfalls, Who Will Benefit*. New York: Open Society Institute. (Chapter 2, p. 19-25, 30-33, 36-44, 49-52)
- Diamond, Larry and Jack Mosbacher. 2013. “Petroleum to the People.” *Foreign Affairs* 92(5): 86-98.

Week 5: The Natural Resource Curse II -- Politics (2/16, 2/18)

- Michael Ross on his book *The Oil Curse*, interview on UCTV [Available on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7ESq_O3Odw.] [Link posted on Blackboard.]
- Friedman, Thomas L. 2006. “The First Law of Petropolitics.” *Foreign Policy*, May/June, 28-36.
- Michael L. Ross. 2001. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics*, 53: 325-361.
- Kevin M. Morrison. (2009). “Oil, Nontax Revenue, and the Redistributive Foundations of Regime Stability.” *International Organization* 63(1): 107-138.
- Michael Herb. (2005). “No Representation without Taxation? Rents, Development and Democracy.” *Comparative Politics* 37(3): 297-316.

Week 6: The Natural Resource Curse III – Oil Conflicts (2/23, 2/25)

- Michael L. Ross. 2008. “Blood Barrels.” *Foreign Affairs*, 87(3): 2-9.
- Michael L. Ross. 2003. “The Natural Resource Curse: How Wealth Can Make You Poor.” In Ian Bannon and Paul Collier (eds.). *Natural Resources and Violent Conflict*. Washington, DC: World Bank. p. 17-42.
- Anderson, Jon Lee. 2000. “Letter from Angola.” *The New Yorker*, August 14: 46.
- Di John, Johnathon. 2007. “Oil Abundance and Violent Political Conflict: A Critical Assessment.” *Journal of Development Studies*, 43: 961-986.

Week 7: The Geopolitics of Oil and Gas (3/2, 3/4)

- The New Geopolitics of Energy: Challenges and Opportunities. Carnegie Endowment for Peace Conference. Video available at <http://carnegieendowment.org/2014/07/24/new-geopolitics-of-energy-challenges-and-opportunities/hfua>. [Link on Blackboard.]
- David Zweig and Bi Jianhai. 2005. “China’s Global Hunt for Energy.” *Foreign Affairs* 84(5): 25-38.
- Joe Barnes and Amy Myers Jaffe. 2006. “The Persian Gulf and the Geopolitics of Oil.” *Survival* 48(1): 143-162.
- al Faisal, Turki. 2009. “Don't be Crude.” *Foreign Policy*, Sep/Oct, 102-103.
- Victor, David G. and Linda Yueh. 2010. “The New Energy Order.” *Foreign Affairs* 90(1): 61-73.
- Blackwill, Robert D. and Meghan L. O'Sullivan. 2014. “America's Energy Edge.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(2): 102-114.
- Johnson, Keith. 2014. “The Islamic State is the Newest Petrostate.” *Foreign Policy.com*. [pdf available on Blackboard]

Week 8: Midterm (3/9, 3/11)

- 3/9 – Review Session (in class).
- 3/11 – Midterm Exam (in class).

Spring Break (3/16, 3/18)

Week 9: Global Warming – The Global Consequences and Response (3/23, 3/25)

- National Research Council. 2012. *Climate Change: Lines of Evidence*. [Video available on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIUN5ziSfNc>] [Link available on Blackboard]
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Group I, The Physical Science Basis.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Group II, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.
- Palmer, Tim. 2014. “Record-breaking Winters and Global Climate Change.” *Science* 344(6186): 803-804.
- Muller, Richard A. 2008. *Physics for Future Presidents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (pages 314-346)
- Goodell, Jeff. 2009. “Geoengineering the Planet: The Possibilities and the Pitfalls, Interview with Ken Caldeira.” *Yale Environment* 360 [pdf on Blackboard].

Week 10: Environmental Concerns in International Relations (3/30, 4/1)

- Walter A. Rosenbaum. 2002. *Environmental Politics and Policy*, 5th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. (Chapter 10, “The United States and Climate Diplomacy: the Emerging Politics of Global Environmentalism,” p. 342-381.
- Kate, O’Neill. 2009. *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 1 and 2, p. 1-47).
- Levi, Michael A. 2009. “Copenhagen's Inconvenient Truth.” *Foreign Affairs* 88(5): 92-104.
- Kintisch, Eli. 2014. “A Bold Baby Step on Emissions.” *Science* 344(6188): 1070-1071.

Week 11: Environment and Energy in Developing Countries (4/6, 4/8)
(4/6 – Last day to drop with a “W”.)

- MIT Study on the Future of Coal. (Chapter 5 – Coal Consumption in China and India., p. 63-85.)
- Richard J. Tobin. 2010. “Environment, Population, and the Developing World.” In Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (eds.). *Environmental Policy*, 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Elizabeth E. Economy. 2010. “China: The Great Leap Backwards?” In Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (eds.). *Environmental Policy*, 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Ruhl, Christof. 2010. “Global Energy After the Crisis.” *Foreign Affairs* 89(2): 63-75.

Week 12: Peak Oil? (4/13, 4/15)

- Murray, James and David King. 2012. “Oil's Tipping Point has Passed.” *Nature* 481: 433-435.
- Nader Elhefnawy. 2008. “The Impending Oil Shock.” *Survival* 50(2): 37-66.
- McNally, Robert and Michael Levi. 2011. “A Crude Predicament.” *Foreign Affairs*, July|August, 100-111.
- Maugeri, Leonardo. 2006. “Two Cheers for Expensive Oil.” *Foreign Affairs* 85(2): 149-161.
- Mores, Edward L. 2014. “Welcome to the Revolution.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(3): 3-7.
- Ian Chapman. 2014. “The end of Peak Oil? Why this topic is still relevant despite recent denials.” *Energy Policy* 64: 93-101.

Week 13: Nuclear Energy and Proliferation (4/20, 4/22)

- Richard Rhodes and Denis Beller. 2000. “The Need for Nuclear Power.” *Foreign Affairs* 79(1): 30-44.
- Ferguson, Charles D. and Michelle M. Smith. 2009. “The Nuclear Option.” *Foreign Policy*, Jan/Feb, 40-41.
- Peterson, Per F., Michael R. Laufer and Edward D. Blandford. 2014. “Nuclear Freeze.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(3): 27-32.
- Background and text of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) for the US Department of State. (10 pages)
- Mark Fitzpatrick. 2007. “Can Iran's Nuclear Capability be Kept Latent?” *Survival* 49(1): 33-58.
- Zarif, Mohammad Javad. 2014. “What Iran Really Wants.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(3): 49-59.
- Schulte, Gregory L. 2010. “Stopping Proliferation Before It Starts.” *Foreign Affairs* 89(4): 85-95.

Week 14: Alternative Energy, Possibilities and Costs (4/27, 4/29)

- Unruh, Gregory C. 2000. “Understanding Carbon Lock-in.” *Energy Policy* 28(12): 817-830.
- Jacobsson, Staffan and Volkmar Lauber. 2006. “The Politics and Policy of Energy System Transformation – Explaining the German Diffusion of Renewable Energy Technology.” *Energy Policy* 34(3): 256-276.
- Grunwald, Michael. 2009. “Seven Myths About Alternative Energy.” *Foreign Policy*, September/October, 130-133.
- Fresco, Louise O. 2009. “Better Biofuels.” *Foreign Policy*, May/Jun, 93.
- Muller, Richard A. 2012. *Energy for Future Presidents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (pages 139-178)
- “The Green Rose of Texas.” *Foreign Policy*, Nov/Dec 2006, 18.

Week 15: Review Session for Final Exam (5/4)

Final Exam Day. May 13, 2pm-5pm. (Final Paper Due)