Energy Geopolitics
Thursday, 10:15-12:00

Instructor: Emily Meierding, PhD
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Description: This seminar provides a theoretically grounded introduction to current issues in energy geopolitics, with a focus on petroleum resources. After a resource overview—addressing the geology, geographies, modes of extraction, transportation, pricing, sales, and actors involved in exploitation of oil and gas—the class begins by considering petroleum producers. We analyze the “resource curse” in all its forms: political, economic, and militarized. Next, we examine producer-consumer relations, looking at how states manipulate petroleum supply and demand to enhance their energy security. The class then considers petroleum-consuming countries’ diplomatic and military strategies for increasing access to petroleum resources. We examine three flashpoints for interstate energy contention: territorial disputes, pipelines, and sea lanes. The class concludes by considering the geopolitical consequences of contemporary energy transitions, such as a shift to unconventional petroleum, nuclear power, and climate change.

While examining these broader topics, the class will cover many energy policy issues that have garnered headlines during the last decade, including gas supply cutoffs in Europe, the consequences of China’s “going out” strategy for oil acquisition, tensions with Iran, US intervention in the Persian Gulf, rebellion in Nigeria, and territorial competition in the Arctic and the South China Sea. Students will have the opportunity to examine a geopolitical issue of their choice in their final research papers.

Expectations
This class is run as a seminar. Students must complete all course readings before the session for which they are assigned, and come to class prepared for discussion. Students will also participate in an in class simulation on energy security in the Arctic. Class participation will count for 35% of your final grade.

The main assignment for this class is a research paper, approximately 6000 words in length, which will be worth 40% of your grade. For this assignment, you are expected to conduct independent research on a topic of your choice, going beyond the class readings.

In preparation for this assignment, you will write one reading response, 1200-1500 words, during weeks 3-6. The response should critically analyze the week’s readings, for any one of these weeks. The response is due before the beginning of the class whose readings you’re analyzing. The reading response is worth 15% of your grade, and will give you an opportunity to receive feedback on your writing, prior to the final paper.

You will also write an annotated outline of your final paper, for circulation to the class and you will present your outline to the class. The outline and presentation, together, are worth 10% of your grade. The timing for the presentations will depend on class enrollments.

Written assignments should all be emailed to the professor and TA, in .doc or .docx format.
Absences
Having more than one absence will affect your participation grade for the class. Cases of illness or family emergencies are exempt from this rule.

Course Readings
There are no required books for this class; readings consist of book sections and articles, all of which will be available either online or in a polycopié.

The following books will be put on reserve at the library. Many of the class readings are drawn from these volumes (see the abbreviations, in bold, to identify them on the syllabus). These are also a good place to begin research for your final papers.


Language Policy
The class will be taught in English. However, students are welcome to participate in class discussions in French and to submit their assignments in French. In evaluating written assignments, I do not grade down for grammatical errors, unless they obscure the meaning of what has been written.

Office Hours
A sign up sheet for my office hours will be available on my office door or you are welcome to drop in during those times. If your class or work schedule makes it impossible for you to come to my office hours, you may email me to determine an alternate time. In that case, let me know when you have classes and/or work, so that I can suggest a meeting time.
1. February 23

Introduction

2. March 1

Petroleum: a Resource Overview
   - OPTIONAL: For more about exploration and production processes, the Learning Center at PetroStrategies is a useful resource: http://www.petrostrategies.org/Learning_Center/learning_center.htm

Petroleum Suppliers: The Resource Curse

3. March 8

Oil’s Impact on Political and Economic Development

4. March 15

Oil and Civil Wars

PRODUCER-CONSUMER RELATIONS

5. March 22
Manipulating Supply: Resource Nationalism, OPEC, and the Oil Weapon
• Daniel Yergin (1990) The Prize, pp. 510-525. [in polycopié]

6. March 29
Manipulating Demand: Efficiency, Stocks, Institutions--and Sanctions?

7. April 5
Class will be rescheduled due to International Studies Association conference
The rescheduled class will consist of presentations of annotated outlines for student research papers and take place near the end of the term.

April 12
Spring Break
SCRAMBLING FOR OIL

8. April 19

Diplomacy, Trade and Aid

• Kent E. Calder (2001) “Japan’s Energy Angst and the Caspian Great Game,” NBER Analysis 12(1), pp. 5-46. 42

9. April 26

Intervention and War

• Stephen Krasner (1978) Defending the National Interest, pp. 217-279. [in polycopié]

FLASHPOINTS FOR CONFLICT

10. May 3

Pipelines

11. May 10

**Sea Lanes and Straits**


12. May 17

**Territorial Disputes and Petro-Aggression**


13. May 24

**Simulation: The Arctic**

• Wikileaks cables and further background material for your actor

ENERGY TRANSITIONS

14. May 31
Peak Oil, Unconventionals, Climate Change, and Nuclear Power
• Daniel Yergin (2011) “Unconventionals” in The Quest, pp. 242-263. [in polycopié]

Final Paper due by 17:00 Friday, June 8

SOME SOURCES FOR ENERGY NEWS AND DATA

Major Energy Data Sources:
BP Statistical Review of World Energy
Energy Information Agency (US) (esp. Annual Energy Outlook and Country Analysis Briefs, including for TDs. But also, pipeline maps)

Additional Data Sources:
ENI World Oil and Gas Review
JODI (Joint Oil Data Initiative) of the IEFS (International Energy Forum Secretariat)
USGS (United States Geological Survey)
World Energy Council (note: this is an industry organization)
World Bank (incl. Energy Sector Management Assistance Program)

Major Energy News Sources:
Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (produced, along with other newsletters, by the Energy Intelligence Group: http://www.energyintel.com/pages/products-newsletters.aspx)
Oil and Gas Journal
The Economist
Financial Times

Popular International Affairs Journals:
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
The Washington Quarterly

Academic Journals:
Survival

Blogs:
“The Oil Drum”
“The Oil and The Glory” (Steve Yetiv at foreignpolicy.com)

Private Consultancy Companies:
Alexander’s Oil and Gas Connections
Cambridge Energy Research Associates (Yergin)
Woods Mackenzie