CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Florence
Course Title: International Energy Policy: Oil, Gas, and Green Technologies
Course Code: FL/POLI 277
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / Environmental Studies, International Relations, History
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: none

Description
The course aims to present a comprehensive analysis of the issues of energy, environment and international energy policy from a strong multidisciplinary perspective, as this course encompasses different disciplines (geopolitics, energy economics, green energy and international history). Energy markets and externalities are too complex to be adequately tackled by a single discipline and therefore this multidisciplinarity is a prerequisite to advance in knowledge and comprehension. Energy is quickly becoming an issue of integration and disintegration in the global arena and will perhaps turn out to be the ultimate test of political power and economic wellness, as energy issues are increasingly intertwined with wider security issues for both the producer and the consumer countries. Foreign policy, green energy and efficiency play a central role for those large countries that are relevant energy importers, such as the US, Europe, China and Japan.

Therefore the challenge for the major energy consumers would be to reassess some of their internal instruments in light of the need for a coherent foreign policy stance with its major partners and suppliers.

Only such a reassessment, in time of shortages and international crisis, could enhance their energy supply security.

Objectives
The course objective is develop a more effective and relevant students' awareness of the global energy issues, as a first step towards achieving sustainability, efficiency and security in this field. These topics will be framed within the EU integration process, the transatlantic dimension, the rise of China as a global player, the prospects for a wider use of renewables and the relations among consumers and producers.

The intent of the course is to establish a basis for understanding past and present developments in the field of global energy issue. By the end of the semester, students are expected to display a confident knowledge of the main geo-political factors that shaped the international world of energy, and should be able to use their critical skills to analyze the main current and future issues.

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Course Requirements

In this course, lectures are combined with individual and group activities, guest lectures and video screenings.

Students are expected to actively participate in class meetings and to complete all the readings assigned for each class. Students are also expected to demonstrate critical thinking skills through effective analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

Methods of Evaluation

10% Participation
10% Assignments and pop-quizzes
15% Oral Presentation
25% Mid-term exam
40% Final Exam

Primary Texts

1. Takin and Williams, “Geo-Politics of Euro-Asian Energy Nexus”, Palgrave McMillan, London, 2010, only pp. 13-57.
2. Bardazzi, Pazienza, Tonini (eds.), “European Energy and Climate Security”, Springer International Publishing, New York and London, 2015, only pp. 1-153.

Supplementary Texts

TBD

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic per week. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately 2 topics per week.

TOPIC 1: Oil and Gas: Six Myths to Debunk. Oil and Gas: an Essential Glossary

TOPIC 2: From Steam to Oil, 1850-1950. The Golden Age of Oil, 1950-1973

TOPIC 3: The Oil Crisis in the 1970s and Beyond

TOPIC 4: Key Figures of Energy in Europe and the US

TOPIC 5: Energy Security: What Does It Mean?

TOPIC 6: US and UE Policy as responses to Energy Security Threats

TOPIC 7: Energy Security: Theory and Practical Implications for EU & Russia

TOPIC 8: The Others' Energy: Russia, India, Brasil and China

TOPIC 9: Green Energy first success: Wind and Hydropower

TOPIC 10: Solar, Biomass, Geothermal Energy

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TOPIC 11: Green Energy: a Real Alternative?

TOPIC 12: Shale Oil and Shale Gas: a New Revolution