GLOBAL POLITICS OF ENERGY

The course program by Professor Sergei V. Golunov

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The course “Global Politics of Energy” is developed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor’s Program in International Affairs (program track “Government and International Affairs”).

Author ____________________________________________ Prof. Sergei V. Golunov

Director of the MGIMO Ivan Tyulin Library __________ Marina Reshetnikova

Director of the School _______________________________ Dr. Mikhail A. Troitskiy
PART 1: 
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION, 
AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1. General information

Template
- Full course title: Global Politics of Energy.
- Type of course: Compulsory.
- Level of course: BA.
- Year of study: 2.
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 3.
- Academic hours: 108 hours (32 for in-class activities and 76 for home assignments).
- Lectures: 16 hours.
- Seminars: 16 hours.
- Name of lecturer:
  Dr. Sergei V. Golunov
  Professor, Lead Researcher of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations
  E-mail: sergei.golunov@gmail.com

1.2. Course aims and learning outcomes

The main objective of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive idea of diverse and multidimensional political impacts of energy issues at the global scale. Also, the course should develop the ability to analyze political dimension of energy issues at the global and regional scale, taking into account historical, economic, logistical, social, domestic and external political, ecological, and cultural context. The course builds upon such related disciplines, as Economic Theory, Theory of International Relations, World History, Contemporary Russian Politics, Global Economic and Social Development, History of International Relations, Russian Economy, and World Economy.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of the course students should:
— be familiar with major energy-related issues affecting global and regional politics;
— understand international mechanisms of energy governance, limitations and vulnerabilities of these mechanisms;
— have a comprehensive idea of regional agendas of energy politics;
— be able to analyze prospective trends of political agendas related to energy issues;
— Be able to do case study research on particular politically relevant energy issues.

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements:
Students are required to attend no less than 90% of classes, to be prepared for class discussions, and to be familiar with compulsory reading materials.

During the semester, each student should make one or two presentation(s) (depending on the size of a group) at a seminar and to pass through three in-class rating tests based on lectures and assigned reading materials.

In-class tests to be based on lectures, seminars, and assigned reading materials and will cover topics already covered by lectures and seminars. Each test will last approximately 30 minutes and will contain questions requiring short responses. Some of these questions to be devoted to key
concepts and definitions and some to major phenomena typically involving ambiguous factors (to be listed in a short response). A test typically will consist of 4 to 6 questions.

Seminar presentations should fit a particular seminar topic. A topic for presentation should be either chosen among suggested ones or be proposed by a student. In both cases a presentation topic should be confirmed by the lecturer. A presentation typically should last no longer than 10 minutes (unless duration is not modified by the lecturer). The presenters are required to outline problems discussed, to consider problems from diverse perspectives of major actors involved, to outline divergent viewpoints if any, and to present her or his argumented opinion about problem issues. Any instance of utilizing somebody else’s texts should be duly acknowledged (by referring to the author and the year of publication immediately after citation and by providing a list of literature in the end of presentation). Presentations containing evident and major instances of plagiarism to be evaluated at 0 points.

Each presentation should be sent to the lecturer’s and to the group’s (or to each student’s) e-mail addresses at least two days before the seminar.

Each presentation to be followed by discussion (asking questions and providing comments). Participants of discussion to be awarded with points depending on the value of their questions and comments. Any sharp criticism of a presentation by students will not affect the score to be given for a presentation: the lecturer will disregard this criticism while making his decision.

The course ends with a written exam.

Grading Plan:
Class attendance – 10%
In-class tests – 45% (15% each)
Presentations – 30% (15% each)
Participation in discussions – 15%

Written exam to be graded separately at the end of the course. The exam to be held during the last class and will contain 5-8 questions. Most of these questions (about key definitions, concepts, and phenomena, defining a statement as a true or false) will require short responses while one or two questions (analyzing a phenomenon, offering a solution for a specific practical situation) will require more detailed response.

To be admitted to the exam, a student should have a score 60% or higher. Those who fail to gain this score will have to pass through additional in-class test summarizing contents of the course.
PART 2:
COURSE CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>108</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for lectures, seminars</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written tests and/or exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written and oral home assignments</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1. Course schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part I. Major issues</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Energy demand and supply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Exploration issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Transportation issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pipeline politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Social and political issues related to energy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Energy and political conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Energy governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Political impacts of introducing new energy sources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Energy and political dimension of environmental debates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part II. Regional agendas</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Russia and Eurasia: geopolitics of energy production and transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Central Asian and Caspian energy geopolitics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>European Union: political dimension of energy production and consumption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Asian and African energy issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>China: internal consumption and expansion of geopolitical influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Americas: political impacts of production and consumption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Summary and conclusions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1. Course content and reading

PART I. MAJOR ISSUES

Lecture 1

Energy demand and supply


Reading:


Further reading:


Internet resources:

Lecture 2

Exploration issues


Reading:

Further reading:

Lecture 3

Transportation issues


Reading:

Further reading:

Seminar 1

Pipeline politics

Questions:
1) Pipeline logistics: what factors determine pipeline routes?
2) Pipelines as factors contributing to conflict and cooperation.
3) Pipelines vs other modes of energy transportation.

Reading:
- Ekpen Omonbude, ‘The Transit Oil and Gas Pipeline and the Role of Bargaining: A Non-

Further reading:

Lecture 4
*Social and political issues related to energy*


Reading:

Further reading:
Timothy Mitchell, ‘Carbon democracy,’ *Economy and Society*, 38:3 (2009), 399-432.

Seminar 2
*Energy and political conflicts*

Questions:
1. Typical actors of energy-related conflicts.
2. Access to resources, resource scarcity, and resource abundance as conflict issues.
3. Conflicts and energy security.
4. Energy conflicts management.

Reading:

Further reading:

Lecture 5
Energy governance


Reading:

Further reading:
Andreas Economou and Bassam Fattouh, ‘5+1 Key Facts about the OPEC Declaration of Cooperation,’ Oxford Energy Comment, September 2018,


**Lecture 6**

*Political impacts of introducing new energy sources*

*Summary:* Biofuel. Shale oil and gas. Renewables: sun, water, wind, thermal, hydrogen, and tidal energy.

**Reading:**


**Further reading:**


**Seminar 3**

*Energy and political dimension of environmental debates*

**Questions:**
1. Energy and environmental pollution.
2. Energy and global warming.
3. Environment protection as a factor for choosing among various kinds of energy.

Reading:


Further reading:


PART II. REGIONAL AGENDAS

Lecture 7
*Russia and Eurasia: geopolitics of energy production and transportation*

Summary: Main oil and gas producers. Transportation networks. Russian energy issues. Russian energy relations with neighboring post-Soviet states. Arctic energy issues.

Reading:


Further reading:
John R.Haines, ‘The Geopolitics of Russia’s Networked Energy Infrastructure,’ *Orbis* 59 4


**Seminar 4**

**Central Asian and Caspian energy geopolitics**

**Questions:**

1. Producers and consumers.
2. Political interests of governmental and non-governmental actors.
3. Key transportation routes: cooperation and competition.

**Reading:**


**Further reading:**


**Lecture 8**

**European Union: political dimension of energy production and consumption**

**Summary:** EU as an energy producer and consumer. Relations with suppliers, supply routes, and supply management. Introducing renewables.
Reading:


Further reading:

Lecture 9
Asian and African energy issues

Summary: Geopolitical issues of major energy producing regions: Middle Eastern and African energy geopolitics. Economic demands and energy politics of Far Eastern oil consumers. Interests of other major Asian energy consumers. Transition to producing and utilizing renewables in Asia and Africa.

Reading:
Further reading:

 Seminar 5

China: internal consumption and expansion of geopolitical influence

Questions:
1. Domestic economic and political implications of Chinese growing energy consumption demand.
2. Geopolitical implications of Chinese energy demand.
3. Environmental concerns and increasing role of renewables.

Reading:

Further reading:
Olivia Boyd, ‘China’s Energy Reform and Climate Policy: The Ideas Motivating Change,’ *Crawford School of Public Policy*, CCEP Working Paper 1205, May 2012,
Lecture 10

**Americas: political impacts of production and consumption**

*Summary:* 1) **USA.** The USA as an importer and as an exporter of energy resources. U.S. energy consumption and geopolitical activity worldwide. Shale revolution. Renewables. 2) **Canada.** Energy production and consumption. Shale oil and gas potential. 3) **Latin America energy issues.**

*Reading:*


*Further reading:*


Summary and conclusions

Questions:
1. What are common and special features of energy demand and supply issues in various regions (post-Soviet Eurasia, Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and Latin America)?
2. Do energy governance mechanisms work efficiently in these regions?
3. How much promising are prospects of introducing renewables in these regions? What are economic and political obstacles?

Reading:

Further reading:
2.3. Exam questions

1. Social and economic importance of traditional energy resources (coal, oil, and gas).
2. Agenda of energy security: what issues are usually included and why?
3. What are the typical key actors of world energy markets?
4. What are typical political impacts of energy prices fluctuation?
5. What are typical strategies of major energy exporters and energy importers?
6. What are major social and political issues related to energy exploration?
7. What major political problems can involve energy transportation?
8. How oil and gas pipelines can contribute to international cooperation and conflicts?
9. How energy issues can influence a state’s economic and political development?
10. Please explain the ‘resource curse’ concept and cite key pro et contra arguments.
11. What ways energy issues are related to social justice?
12. How abundance or deficit of energy resources can affect a state’s foreign policy behavior?
13. What ways abundance or deficit of energy resources can contribute to domestic and international conflicts? How these conflicts could be managed?
14. What actors and institutions participate in international energy governance? How efficient is this governance?
15. Prospects and obstacles for global energy order.
16. Social and political importance of introducing renewable energy sources.
17. What ways energy production and consumption is connected with environmental issues? What are political implications of such connections?
18. Who are the top oil and gas producers in post-Soviet Eurasia? What are the main features of their energy-related foreign policies?
19. What are the main energy transportation networks in post-Soviet Eurasia? How these networks interrelate in terms of conflict and cooperation?
20. What are key developments and prospects related to exploitation of Arctic energy issues?
21. What are energy issues specific for Caspian and Central Asian regions? What key actors participate in regional energy geopolitics and what major interests do they have?
22. What are the key EU’s political interests related to energy production and consumption?
23. Who are the key energy suppliers to the EU? What are the main issues of the EU’s relations with these suppliers.
24. Who are the major energy suppliers in Asia and Africa? What relevant political interests do they have?
25. Who are the major energy consumers in Asia? What relevant political interests do they have?
26. Please outline the key issues of energy-related political agenda of the Middle East. Who are the most important regional and external players and what relevant political interests do they have?
27. What are the key energy-related political interests of China? In what ways these interests shape its geopolitical activities?
28. Who are the key energy producers and consumers in Americas? What relevant political interests do they have?
29. In what ways energy issues contribute to U.S. external policy?
30. What are major geopolitical implications of the ‘shale revolution’?

2.4. Exam timing
2.5. Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)

**Literature:**


Timothy Mitchell, ‘Carbon democracy,’ Economy and Society, 38:3 (2009), 399-432.


Internet sources:

Exxon Mobil, https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/
KazMunaiGas, https://kmgep.kz/eng/
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, https://www.opec.org/
Rosneft, https://www.rosneft.com/
Saudi Aramco, https://www.saudiaramco.com/
Shell, https://www.shell.com/
Total, https://www.total.com/en