

The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs Spring
Semester 2019

January 17 – April 25, 2018

Domestic Energy Policy

LGAF6270.LH1

3 Credits

Thursday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Hall of
the States

Jeff Lane, Adjunct Professor of Legislative Affairs
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Office hours: 5:30 – 6:00 p.m., right before class, in the Hall
of the States lobby, or by appointment

Course Description

This is a graduate level course in U.S. energy policy. We will focus on several key topics: (a) an overview of energy policymaking in the United States; (b) an overview of energy resources worldwide and in the United States; (c) the use of fossil fuels — oil and gasoline, coal, and natural gas; (d) the use of non-fossil sources of energy and renewable energy sources — nuclear power, solar, wind, biomass, hydropower and others; (e) energy, the environment, and climate change; (f) reducing the demand for energy through conservation and efficiencies; (g) an analysis of recent energy legislation and regulation; and finally (h) the future of U.S. energy needs and domestic policymaking.

The Learning Objectives for this Course

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- (a) *Demonstrate an understanding of U.S. domestic energy policy and related scientific, technological and political issues.*
- (b) *Describe how energy needs are met in critical areas of U.S. life, from transportation through transmission of electricity.*
- (c) *Explain the major legislative, regulatory and policy initiatives in the area of energy.*
- (d) *Understand the political strengths and weaknesses of the various industry sectors, from fossil fuels to renewables.*
- (e) *Convey your understanding of energy terms, concepts, issues and policy in writing and in speech.*

How Your Grade Will be Determined

Research Paper: You will write a 12 to 15-page research paper (not counting bibliography and charts, figures) on a contemporary energy policy issue. In this paper, you will (a) summarize the current state of the energy policy in this field; (b) advocate for federal policy changes that you think are desirable in this field; and (c) describe relevant policy actors and institutions in the federal executive and legislative branches who would be most responsible for making such changes, and list and briefly describe the interest groups that would be most likely to support them.

You must submit your research paper topic to me no later than March 8. The paper will be due April 18 and will constitute 40 percent of your course grade. Unexcused late submission of your paper will result in a reduction of your grade.

Oral Presentation and Class Participation: Each student will give a 15-minute presentation of his or her research findings and advocacy in one of the last two class sessions. Students are also expected to participate actively in class discussions throughout the semester. Together this will count as 20 percent of your final grade.

Final Examination: The final examination will be a take-home, open-book, open-note examination. You will be asked two broad questions (you will pick two from three options) related to energy policy and your answers will be grounded on the reading, lectures and discussions that we have done during the semester. This will count as 40 percent of your final grade.

Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:

A	94-100	Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work.
A-	90-93	Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work.
B+	87-89	Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work.
B	83-86	Satisfactory work, but needs reworking and more effort. Note that although not a failing grade, at the graduate level, anything below a "B" is viewed as unacceptable.
B-	80-82	You've completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all of the requirements.
C+	77-79	Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern.
C	73-76	Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern.
C-	70-72 (lowest grade to pass)	Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc.
F	Below 70	Unacceptable performance, or inability to submit the assignment.

*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

Textbook:

Daniel Yergin, *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World* (Penguin, 2012)

Suggested Sources and Online Readings:

The U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Energy Explained, Your Guide to Understanding Energy* <http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm>

Suggested sources for current energy policy news:

RealClear Energy, Politico, The Hill:

<http://www.realclearenergy.org>

<http://www.politico.com/energy-and-environment>

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy>

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment>

The Bipartisan Policy Center, *The Executive Branch and National Energy Policy: Time for Renewal* (November 2012)

http://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/default/files/BPC_Governance_Report_0.pdf

U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Energy Subcommittee, "Department of Energy Missions and Management Priorities," (Oct. 12, 2017)

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF03/20171012/106506/HHRG-115-IF03-Wstate-PerryR-20171012.pdf>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, testimony before U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Environment Subcommittee, "The Mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," (Dec. 12, 2017)

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF18/20171207/106701/HHRG-115-IF18-Wstate-PruittS-20171207.pdf>

Michael Ratner, *21st Century U.S. Energy Sources: A Primer*, Congressional Research Service (2017)

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44854.pdf>

Remarks of President Donald Trump at the *Unleashing American Energy Event*, (June

29, 2017) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-unleashing-american-energy-event/>

International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook Executive Summary* (2017)

https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO_2017_Executive_Summary_English_version.pdf

The Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Program, *Energy in a Time of Innovation and Volatility*, Anne Pramaggiore & Clint Vince, Co-Chairs, 2016 Energy Policy Forum

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/2016-energy-policy-forum-report/>

The Aspen Institute Energy & Environment Program, *Disruptive Forces and The Energy System's Response to Change*, Ernest Moniz & Anne Pramaggiore, Co-Chairs, 2017 Energy Policy Forum

<https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/2017/11/2017EnergyPolicy.pdf>

Blackboard Site

A Blackboard course site has been set up for this course. Each student is expected to check the site throughout the semester, as Blackboard will be the primary venue for outside classroom communications between the instructors and the students. Students can access the course site at <https://blackboard.gwu.edu>. Support for Blackboard is available at 202-994-4948 or helpdesk.gwu.edu.

Personal Electronic Devices:

While taking notes in class by hand is recommended, students may use personal electronic devices in class only to reference course materials and take notes. Students may not do anything else with personal devices during class. If you wish to use a smaller electronic device such as a smartphone for any of these purposes, please notify me beforehand. Texting, emailing and other activities unrelated to class are not allowed. Each class

session will include a break during which you can use your phone for those purposes.

Academic Integrity:

All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with, and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams.

Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at <http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity>.

In the Legislative Affairs program, we enforce a *zero tolerance* policy for plagiarism. If there is evidence that you plagiarized your research assignment, you will be given an “F” for the assignment and an “F” for the course. That also means you’ll probably be kicked out of our master’s program. To guard against plagiarism, we use SafeAssign, a feature found in Blackboard. All papers must be submitted to this site. More on this when we get closer to our research assignment.

Support for Students with Disabilities:

GW’s Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Please notify your instructor if you require accommodations. Additional information is available at <http://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/>.

In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class

If we experience some an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. If we have to leave here, we will meet at **[fill in proximate location]** in order to account for everyone and to make certain that everyone is safe. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University’s operating status: <http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/>.

Out of Class/Independent Learning Expectation

Over the course of the semester, students will spend at least 2 hours (100 minutes) per week in class. Required reading for the class meetings and written response papers or projects are expected to take up, on average, 7 hours (350 minutes) per week. Over the course of the semester, students will spend 25 hours instructional time and 87.5 hours preparing for class.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course through GW's online course evaluation system. It is very important that you take the time to complete an evaluation. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course of the semester by contacting any/all of the following:

Dr. Steven Billet
Director, Legislative Affairs Program
sbillet@gwu.edu | 202-994-1149

Dr. Jack Prostko
Associate Dean for Learning and Faculty Development College of
Professional Studies
jackp@gwu.edu | 202-994-3592

Suzanne Farrand
Director of Academic Administration, GSPM sfarrand@gwu.edu |
202-994-9309

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

(The instructor reserves the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class progress. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar.)

January 17

Week 1: Introduction and Energy Basics

Class Overview
Discuss Syllabus and Class Requirements and Expectations
Personal Introductions
Energy Basics – lecture and discussion

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, Introduction and Prologue

January 24

Week 2: An Overview of Energy Policymaking Institutions in the United States

Executive Branch: Key Cabinet Agencies and Independent Regulatory Agencies,
White House and OMB
Congress: Committees of jurisdiction and key members
Role of the courts
Role of states and local governments

Readings:

Bipartisan Policy Center, *The Executive Branch and National Energy Policy:
Time for Renewal* (2012)
Testimony of U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry, House Energy and Commerce

Committee hearing on “*Department of Energy Mission and Management Priorities*” (Oct. 12, 2017)
Testimony of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on “*The Mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*” (Dec. 7, 2017)

January 31

Week 3: An Overview of Energy Resources, Policy Context and Outlook

World and U.S. energy resources – basics, trends and outlook
Policy Context – From Scarcity to Abundance, Volatility in the Marketplace

Readings:

Remarks of President Donald Trump at the “*Unleashing American Energy*” Event, (June 29, 2017)
IEA *World Energy Outlook Executive Summary* (2017)
The Aspen Institute, *Energy in a Time of Innovation & Volatility*, pp. 1-10, pp. 16-25
CRS, *21st Century U.S. Energy Sources: A Primer* (2017) (Summary and Introduction – through p. 3)

February 7

Week 4: Fossil Fuels: Oil and Coal

Basics, trends and outlook
Unconventional methods impact on oil production
Geopolitics
U.S. policy affecting oil and coal

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapters 11-14
EIA’s *Energy Explained: Oil, Coal*
Other Reading TBD

Guest Speaker: Chris Smith, former Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy at the Department of Energy

February 14

Week 5: Fossil Fuels: Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Basics, trends and outlook
Unconventional methods impact on production
Role in electricity generation
Liquefied natural gas exports
“Fracking” controversy

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapters 15-16
EIA's *Energy Explained*: Natural Gas and LNG

February 21

Week 6: Solar, Wind, and other Renewables

Basics, Trends and Outlook
Economics of renewables
Federal and state incentives and regulation

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapters 27-30
EIA's *Energy Explained*: Solar, Wind and Renewables
Other Reading TBD

Guest Speaker: Christopher Mansour, former VP
for Federal Affairs, Solar Energy Industries
Association (SEIA)

February 28

Week 7: Electricity and the Utility Industry

The modern electric grid
Challenges for electric utilities; distributed generation
Grid resiliency and cyber security

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapters 17, 19, 20
Other Reading TBD

Guest Speaker: Tom Craig, Director of Federal Government Affairs, Duke Energy, and
former majority clerk for Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee

March 7

Week 8: Energy Storage, Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency

Energy Storage
Smart Grid, Micro Grids
Transportation
Distribution

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapters 31-32
Other Reading TBD

Research Paper Topics Due—

March 14, Spring Break --

March 21

Week 9: Nuclear Power

Basics, History
Nuclear power generation in United States
Issues: Safety, Environmental, and Proliferation
Nuclear Waste Policy

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapter 18 and
chapter 20 (pp. 407-418)
EIA's *Energy Explained: Nuclear Power*
Other Reading TBD

Guest Speaker: Chris Hanson, Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Committee staff member, former Senior Advisor in DOE's Office of
Nuclear Energy

March 28

Week 10: Energy and Climate Change

US Policy Issues
Paris Climate Agreement

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chapters 23-26
Leggett and Lattanzio, *Climate Change: Frequently Asked Questions About the
2015 Paris Agreement*, CRS, 2016 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44609.pdf>
(pp. 1-13)
Columbia Energy Exchange podcast with George Banks, former Special Assistant to President
Trump for International Energy and Environment [http://energypolicy.columbia.edu/us-
climate-policy-under-trump-administration](http://energypolicy.columbia.edu/us-climate-policy-under-trump-administration) (through 32:28)

April 4

Week 11: Recent Federal Legislation and Regulation

Energy Policy Act of 2005
Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
EPA Clean Power Plan
Crude oil exports ban and wind and solar tax incentives

Readings:

CRS Reports, relevant news articles – will send email with links

April 11

Week 12: The Future of Energy Policy

The Trump Administration and energy and environmental policy
Pending Court Cases
International Issues

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chaps. 33-35 &
Conclusion
Other Reading TBD

April 18

Week 13: Presentations

Research Papers Due

Oral presentations of Research Papers and discussion, part 1.

April 25

Week 14: Presentations and Review

Oral Presentations and discussion, Part 2
Exam Review
Final Examination Take Home Given Out

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Unless explicitly allowed by the instructor, course materials, class discussions, and examinations are created for and expected to be used by class participants only. The recording and rebroadcasting of such material, by any means, is forbidden.