The Graduate School of Political Management
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs
Spring Semester 2017
January 19 – April 27, 2017

Domestic Energy Policy
LGAF6270.LH1
3 Credits

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

Jeff Lane

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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 non-fossil sources of energy—nuclear power, hydropower; (e) renewable energy sources—solar, wind, biomass, and others; (d) energy, the environment, and climate change; (e) reducing the demand for energy through conservation and efficiencies; (f) analysis of recent energy legislation and regulation; and finally (g) looking to the future of energy needs and U.S. 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 federal legislation, regulation and policy initiatives in the area of energy.
(d) Understand the political strengths and weaknesses of the various energy

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 15-page research paper on a contemporary energy policy issue. In this paper, you will (a) summarize in 5 pages (or so) the current state of the energy policy in this field; (b) advocate in 8 pages (or so) for federal policy changes that you think are desired in this field; and (c) describe in 2 pages (or so) 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 join you in this reform.

This assignment will be due April 20, and will constitute 40 percent of your course grade.

Oral Presentation and Class Participation: We will devote two class sessions to oral presentations, where each student will give a 15-minute presentation of his or her research findings and advocacy. Students are also expected to participate actively in class discussions. 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 related to energy policy and your answers, about 8 pages for each question, 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:

Grade*	**Grading Standard**
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).

Readings:

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***

Sources for current energy policy news:

RealClear Energy and Politico's Energy and Environment page:
http://www.realclearenergy.org
http://www.politico.com/energy-and-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

Maura Allaire and Stephen P. A. Brown, *U.S. Energy Subsidies: Effects on Energy Markets and Carbon Dioxide Emissions* (Resources for the Future/Pew Charitable Trust, 2012), pp. 1-22.
http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Fiscal_and_Budget_Policy/EnergySubsidiesFINAL.pdf

Robert Meltz, *Climate Change and Existing Law: A Survey of Legal Issues Past, Present and Future,* CRS, 2014. http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42613.pdf

Richard Campbell, *Customer Choice and the Power Industry of the Future*, CRS, 2014.
https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43742.pdf

Institute for Energy Research, *Energy Information Administration Energy Outlook 2015* http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/analysis/eias-annual-energy-outlook-2015-fossil-fuels-remain-predominant-energy-providers/

International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook Factsheets* (2015) http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/media/weowebsite/2015/WEO2015_Factsheets.pdf

International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook, Executive Summary* (2015) https://www.iea.org/Textbase/npsum/WEO2015SUM.pdf

The White House, *Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future, http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/blueprint_secure_energy_future.pdf*

Senator Lisa Murkowski, *Energy 20/20 A Vision for America's Energy Future* *http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=099962a5-b523-4551-b979-c5bac6d45698 (February 2013)*

Quadrennial Energy Review, *http://energy.gov/epsa/downloads/quadrennial-energy-review-full-report* (April 2015)

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.

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 19

Week 1: Overview, Introductions 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 26

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)

February 2

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:

EIA Energy Outlook 2016
IEA *World Energy Outlook Factsheets* and *Executive Summary* (2016)
Murkowski, *Energy 20/20, "Energy is Good"* Introduction, pp. 4-6

FOSSIL FUELS

February 9

Week 4: 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 and coal
Other TBD

February 16

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

Basics, trends and outlook
Unconventional methods impact on production
Liquefied natural gas exports
U.S. policy related to natural
"Fracking" controversy

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

Readings:

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

NON-FOSSIL FUEL SOURCES OF ENERGY

February 23

Week 6: Nuclear Power

Basics, History
Nuclear power generation in United States
Issues: Safety, Environmental, Proliferation
Return of Nuclear?

Nuclear Waste Policy

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

Readings:

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

March 2

Week 7: Solar, Wind, and other Renewables

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

Guest Speaker: Solar Energy Industries Association representative

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chs. 27-30
EiA's *Energy Explained*: solar, wind and renewables
Other Reading TBD

March 9

Week 8: Electricity and the Utility Industry

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

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chs. 17, 19, 20 "The Electric Age"
Quadrennial Energy Review, Full Report, Chapter Three, *Modernizing the Electric Grid*
Campbell, *Customer Choice and the Future of the Utility Industry of the Future*, CRS, 2014

-- March 16, Spring Break --

CLIMATE CHANGE, CONSERVATION AND FUTURE ENERGY CHALLENGES

March 23

Week 9: Energy and Climate Change

US Policy Issues
Paris Climate Agreement

Readings:

Yergin, *The Quest*, chs. 23-26
Meltz, *Climate Change and Existing Law,* CRS, 2014
Other Reading TBD

March 30

Week 10: Energy Efficiency and Energy Infrastructure

Demand Management
Transportation
Distribution
Storage

Readings:
Yergin, The Quest, Chapters 31-32
Quadrennial Energy Review, Chapter 1
Other Reading TBD

April 6

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 renewables tax incentives

Readings:

Allaire and Brown, *U.S. Energy Subsidies,* pp. 1-22
Other Reading TBD

April 13

Week 12: The Future of Energy Policy

The Trump Administration
Pending Court Cases
International Issues

Readings:

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

April 20

Week 13: Presentations

Research Papers Due
Oral presentations of Research Papers, part 1.

April 27

Week 14: Presentations and Review

Oral Presentations, Part 2
Exam Review
Final Examination Given Out
