



# Course Syllabus

June 2020

**Course:** Political economy of energy and climate change

**Course Organizer:** Indra Overland, NUPI

## **Course description**

The aim of the course is to provide:

- An introduction to the main concepts and theories in the political economy of energy issues, both at the national and the international levels
- An introduction to climate policy issues
- Demonstrations of the value of applied, empirical research for job prospects
- To have fun

## **Course Organiser**

Indra Overland, Research Professor and Head of the Center for Energy Research, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

## **Schedule of Classes**

Black = lectures and discussion

Red = group exercises, student presentations, tests, consultations

### ***Monday 29 June 14:00 – 16:00***

- A1. Introduction to the module
- A3. The Caspian petroleum province
- A4. Peak oil
- A5. Energy security
- A6. Resource nationalism
- A7. Geopolitics
- A8. The resource curse

### ***Tuesday 30 June 14:00 – 16:00***

- B1. Energy globalization
- B2. Climate policy
- B3. Alternative energy technologies
- B4. Interconnections between energy issues group exercise

### ***Wednesday 1 July 14:00 – 16:00***

- C1. Writing an MA thesis: strategies and choices
- C2. Kahoot
- C3. Any questions about essay topics

### ***Thursday 2 July***

Day off to prepare essay topic

### ***Friday 3 July 14: – 16:00***

- E1. Energy essay topic presentations
- E2. MIT energy and climate simulator exercise

## **Credits for entire energy module: 2**

### **Grading**

This is the tentative grading setup for the course. Changes may be made.

| <b>%</b> | <b>Component</b>                          |
|----------|---|
| 60       | Written essay                             |
| 25       | Contribution to discussions in class      |
| 5        | Oral presentation of plan for essay       |
| 5        | MIT energy and climate simulator exercise |
| 5        | Kahoot                                    |

### **Teaching methods**

Lectures; critical examination of texts; discussion; tests in class; student presentations in class; group work; essay.

### **Attendance**

All students enrolled for the course are required to attend all classes. A register of attendance will be maintained. Anyone absent must notify the lecturer.

### **Concerns**

Students are very welcome to raise any concerns with the lecturer.

### **Special needs**

Students with special needs are encouraged to bring this information to the attention of the lecturer (in confidentiality if they wish).

## Essay task

All those who take the course need write an essay afterwards.

Deadline for submission of final essay: Friday 16 July.

Before writing the essay, you should give an oral presentation of the essay topic in class. Each student gets only 2 minutes for the oral presentation. This is in order to practice doing an elevator pitch. Both the oral presentation and the written essay contribute to the essay grade.

Essays should be submitted as Microsoft word files (not PDF). The file name should start with your surname. Do *not* send the essay to Indra. Instead, email it to Cholpon Osmonalieva [c.osmonalieva@osce-academy.net](mailto:c.osmonalieva@osce-academy.net) and she will send them all on to Indra.

The topic should be related to energy, but it can be any kind of energy (oil, gas, renewables, nuclear, coal, electricity, energy storage...). It can also be a non-energy topic as long as it is relevant for the energy sector (e.g. geopolitics, climate change, natural resource management, the resource curse). You are welcome to write about any part of the world, or about topics that are not geographically specific. You do not need to ask me for permission to change the topic as long as it fits with what I write here.

The essay should be between 800 and 1200 words long – including all elements (also bibliography and any footnotes). *Please stay within the word limit.*

It is important that the essay is in some way analytical – not just listing facts like an encyclopaedia article. This means that it should try to answer some interesting question, actively interpret some data or information, weigh arguments for and against something, or make some kind of argument. It is not important that the essay is theoretical.

The essay should start with a very short abstract/summary of its contents and main point(s).

You get bonus points for including relevant graphs or diagrams in your essay, especially if they are interesting and relevant to your argument. It is best if they are “handmade”, not just a picture cut and pasted from somewhere (though it is ok to create them as copies of graphs you have seen elsewhere as long as you then refer to the source).

You get bonus points for an original topic or innovative analysis or arguments, as well as for clear and convincing arguments. It is important that the text is clear and easy to follow.

You do not have to use only academic sources, though it is good if you use some. In energy studies, reports and statistics from oil companies and international organizations and government bodies are also considered good sources for academic purposes.

It is up to you which reference system you use as long as you are consistent within your essay. References should be complete. Include date of access if it is a webpage, include page number if you quote a number or non-obvious fact or directly quote text (but no page number is needed if it is a website without page numbers).

## Reading materials

This module is focused on problems and their analysis, class participation and performance on tests rather than academic literature. Nonetheless it may be helpful to have a look at these texts to understand some topics better.

- Anker, Morten; Pavel Baev, Bjorn Brunstad, Indra Overland and Stina Torjesen (2010) *The Caspian Sea Region towards 2025: Caspia Inc., National Giants or Trade and Transit?*, Delft: Eburon (distributed by University of Chicago Press), pp. 1-153.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319503667>
- Haber, Stephen and Victor Menaldo (2011) 'Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of the Resource Curse', *American Political Science Review*, pp. 1-26.  
[https://www.jstor.org/stable/41480824?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/41480824?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)
- Hovi, Jon et al. 2016, 'Climate change mitigation: a role for climate clubs?', Palgrave Communications volume 2, Article number: 16020  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/palcomms201620>
- Kalyuzhnova, Y. (2006). Overcoming the Curse of Hydrocarbons: Goals and Governance in the Oil Funds of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, *Comparative Economic Studies*, 48, pp. 583-613.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5219008> Overcoming the Curse of Hydrocarbon Goals and Governance in the Oil Funds of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan
- Lucke, M. (2010) *Stabilization and Savings Funds to Manage Natural Resource Revenues: Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan vs. Norway*, Kiel Institute for the World Economy Working Paper No. 1652, Available at:  
<http://www.econstor.eu/dspace/bitstream/10419/41454/1/636592340.pdf>
- Murphy, Alexander (ed.) (2004) 'Is there a Politics to Geopolitics?', *Progress in Human Geography*, pp. 619-640.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249871951\\_Is\\_there\\_a\\_politics\\_to\\_geopolitics](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249871951_Is_there_a_politics_to_geopolitics)
- Nordhaus, William (2015) 'Climate Clubs: Overcoming Free-Riding in International Climate Policy', *American Economic Review*, 105(4): 1339–1370.  
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.15000001>
- Overland, Indra (2016) 'Energy: The Missing Link in Globalization', *Energy Research and Social Science*, 14, pp. 122–130.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289325179>
- Overland, Indra (2015) 'Future Petroleum Geopolitics: Consequences of Climate Policy and Unconventional Oil and Gas, Handbook of Clean Energy Systems, Chichester: Wiley, pp. 3517–3544.'  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281774890>
- Overland, Indra and Benjamin Sovacool (2020) 'The misallocation of climate research funding', *Energy Research and Social Science*, Vol. 62, Article No 101349, pp. 1–13.  
<https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S2214629619309119>
- Overland, Indra, Morgan Bazilian, Talgat Ilimbek uulu, Roman Vakulchuk, Kirsten Westphal (2019) 'The GeGaLo index: Geopolitical gains and losses after energy transition', *Energy Strategy Reviews*, Vol. 26, pp. 1–16.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211467X19300999>
- O'Sullivan, Meghan et al. 'The Geopolitics of Renewable Energy', Columbia University and Harvard University. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317954274>
- Reyer, Christopher et al. (2015) Climate change impacts in Central Asia and their implications for development, *Regional Environmental Change*, pp. 1-12.

- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287505582\\_Climate\\_change\\_impacts\\_in\\_Central\\_Asia\\_and\\_their\\_implications\\_for\\_development](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287505582_Climate_change_impacts_in_Central_Asia_and_their_implications_for_development)
- Ross, Michal (2001) 'Does Oil Hinder Democracy?', *World Politics*, Vol 53, pp. 325-361.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236710633\\_Does\\_Oil\\_Hinder\\_Democracy](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236710633_Does_Oil_Hinder_Democracy)
- Rosser, Andrew (2006) *The Political Economy of the Resource Curse: A Literature Survey*, Sussez: IDS, 34 pages.  
<https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/4061>
- Sending, Ole Jacob et al. (2020) 'Climate Change and International Relations: A Five-Pronged Research Agenda', *Journal of International Affairs* (Columbia University), Vol. 73, No. 1, pp. 183–193,  
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- Unruh, Gregory (2000) 'Understanding Carbon Lock-In', *Energy Policy*,  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421500000707>
- Vakulchuk, Roman et al. (2020) 'Renewable Energy and Geopolitics: A Review', *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, No. 122, pp. 1–12, article number 109547.  
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