INR4054_Sum12_Marien_DW_59 (60137)

University of Central Florida

INR4054 Global Politics of Energy

Summer D 2012

Dr. Daniel Marien (321) 433-7952 danielmarien@yahoo.com

Course Information

Office	UCF COCOA:	Building 3, rm. 223
Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., BCC bldg 3, rm. 223	
Phone:	321-433-7952	

You **must** regularly visit your UCF knights email account. The instructor relies on it to update you on the course process.

Best Email Contact: danielmarien@yahoo.com (avoid course email)

Course Contents

Energy and human well-being will intersect more powerfully in the 21st century than ever before. This course examines the main characteristics of the global energy system and the momentous pressures and choices faced by governments, citizens, business, and consumers across the globe.

The long-term political challenge to the global system of energy can be summarized thus: the world needs much more energy, but it cannot afford much more fossil fuel emissions. Man-made climate change and other threats to human health demand a gradual reduction in emissions of greenhouses gases and other noxious substances (sulfur dioxide, organic volatile compounds, mercury, etc.) linked to the extraction and combustion of oil, gas and coal.

Other important problems include the reliability and affordability of energy sources, tensions between importing nations for access to energy supply, the unrelenting “oil curse” (the unexpected but all too real notion that oil-rich states experience economic and political handicaps because of their oil endowments), and the challenges of overcoming energy scarcity in many underdeveloped nations.

Course Structure

During the first 7 weeks of the semester, the course introduces all students to key concepts and ideas through a common core set of documentary films, readings, quizzes and group discussions. All students read the same material during these first seven weeks of the semester and discuss this material within their respective group. Students join a group in the first week on the basis of the specialized readings they wish to explore during the 8th week of the semester (see below).

During each of the first seven weeks, every student first takes the quiz and then answers the questions formulated by the instructor. Students post their respective answers in their respective group Discussion Board in Webcourses@UCF. The quiz and the group-specific Discussion Boards are available from Monday mornings until Wednesday evenings. Quiz taking and answer posting **must** be completed by Wednesday evenings at 11:59 P.M.

Once the time window for posting individual answers is closed, one group secretary reviews all the group's answers, composes a summary and posts it in the SUMMARIES Discussion Board (available Thursday mornings until Friday evenings). The group receives a collective grade on this summary. Group members take turn in fulfilling the secretarial task of putting together the group discussion summary.

During the 8th week each group reads a different specialized chapter from the Chevalier book. The group then composes a brief summary of its specialized chapter and circulates to the rest of the class. The six specialized summaries are the subject of **the final exam during the 9th week of the semester.**

The specialized chapters from the Chevalier book are listed below:

- Chapter 2: Asia
- Chapter 3: Russia and the Caspian Sea Region
- Chapter 4: Third World
- Chapter 5: Middle East and North Africa
- Chapter 7: Europe
- Chapter 8: Energy Finance

The Chevalier chapter summary is a collective composition of between 1,500 and 2,500 words synthesizing in a coherent manner the main ideas and the more important data for the benefit of the rest of the class. Individual tasks are apportioned within the group and students receive an individual grade for this exercise.

After completion, the respective Chevalier chapter summaries are made available to all students and become subject to the final exam administered during the 9th and last week of summer semester D. In this manner, every student receives an introduction to

the politics of energy in all important regions of the globe while the reading list is shortened.

Course Goals and Objectives

- ### Course Goals

1. Understand the arguments for and against the idea according to which the United States could and should play a leading role in greening the global energy system.
2. Understanding the nature and extent of rivalries between energy importing nations.
3. Understanding the “oil curse” afflicting many energy exporting nations.
4. Understanding the challenge to economic development created by energy poverty in much of the Third World.
5. Develop the research, analytical, evaluative and writing skills of participants.
6. Develop students’ ability to work productively in small groups, thereby developing valuable skills for professional and administrative work roles.

- ### Course Objectives

During this course, the students will learn:

1. To state the pros and cons of the United States taking a leading role in the transition to green energy.
2. To describe the multiple layers of international competition and mutual dependence created by the existing global energy system.
3. To describe how to what extent, and under what conditions rich natural endowments in oil can negatively impact a nation’s political life and economic development.
4. To describe the challenges and opportunities for bringing more energy to the Third World.
5. To find relevant and empirically valid information, to analyze and evaluate this information and to summarize it in a coherent and engaging way.
6. To divide group tasks in clear and functional ways, to communicate ideas effectively, to pay close attention to other students’ ideas and viewpoints, to demonstrate responsible behavior toward the group, to meet deadlines, and to integrate one’s ideas in a larger ensemble.

Course Materials

You will need to have access to the following:

Netflix

The first trial month is advertized as free. You will need access to this service only during the first 4 weeks of the course. Afterwards, the documentaries assigned for viewing are legally available for free on the web (from pbs.org).

Tom Friedman
Hot, Flat and Crowded 2.0: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America.
New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, **Expanded and updated edition only**, 2009, ISBN: 978-0312428921. **(Avoid the 2008 edition.)**

This book is available in paper and in electronic format from Amazon Kindle (and possibly other providers). This book is available at the UCF Bookstore (Orlando) and elsewhere.

Jean Marie Chevalier (editor)
The New Energy Crisis: Climate, Economics and Geopolitics.
Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-230-57739-8.

This book is available at the UCF Bookstore (Orlando), from Amazon.com, and from the UCF library in electronic format. The UCF library format will support simultaneous readers. (You need to log in the library website to access it from off-campus locations.)

Assessments

WHAT	WHEN	WORTH
Quizzes	Weekly (weeks #1-7)	30%
Group Discussion Postings and Summaries	Weekly (weeks #1-7)	30%
Summary of a specialized chapter from Chevalier	July 6	20%
Final Exam	July 12 – 13	20%

Course Schedule

Week #1, May 14-18:

- **On Monday, students read the Course Outline to familiarize themselves with the course's goals, content and structure.**
- **On Monday, students also scan the specialized chapters from Chevalier's book to gain a sense of what they are about and which one chapter they would like to work on during the 8th week. Students communicate to the instructor their preferred choices for a specific chapter and for joining the related discussion group by the end of Monday.**
    - State a first, second and third preference. Post your preferences in Webcourses → Assignments → Group Preferences. The instructor will assign you to a group soon thereafter. He will try to respect your preferences but also equalize the distribution of students across groups (avoiding overly large and overly small group).

- **View** the documentary film *A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash*
    - Available for online steaming at Netflix.
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 1-3.
- **Read** Chevalier, Foreword + Introduction.

- **Take the Quiz** (before Wednesday evening at 11:59 P.M.) covering the materials assigned for the week.
- **Participate** in your Group's Discussion Board (before Wednesday evenings at 11:59 P.M.) by answering the instructor's questions for this week. The instructor announces in due time the questions in the Announcement function of Webcourses@UCF and via email (from a list drawn from myucf. Make sure you email address in myucf is working and is regularly consulted).
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) summarizes the group's answers and posts his/her text **in the relevant SUMMARIES Discussion Board** by Friday evenings under this title:
    - Group Name_Summary: **EX.: "Asia_Summary."**
    - The Secretary may use copy and paste functions for this task. Do not re-invent the wheel in composing this summary. Start by reading all answers, then choose and assemble your group mates' paragraphs that articulate the most complete and accurate answers to the Reading Comprehension Questions. For the Evaluation Questions, the secretary's summary reproduces all the substantive viewpoints.
    - Do this carefully: groups are randomly graded on these summaries.

Week #2, May 21-25

- **View** the documentary film *Burning the Future: Coal in America* (89 minutes)
  - Available for online steaming at Netflix.
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 4-6.
- **Read** Chevalier, chapter 1, pp. 6-19 only.

- **Take the Quiz**
- **Participate** in your Group's Discussion.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) summarizes the group's answers and posts them **in the SUMMARIES Discussion Board** by Friday11:59 P.M.

Week #3, May 28 – June 1

- **View** the documentary film *The Hugo Chavez Show*
  - Available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hugochavez/view/
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 7-9.
- **Read** Chevalier, chapter 1, pp. 19-30 only.

- **Take the Quiz**
- **Participate** in your Group's Discussion Board).
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) summarizes the group's answers and posts them **in the SUMMARIES Discussion Board** by Friday 11:59 P.M.

Week #4, June 4-8

- **View** the documentary film *Crude: The Real Price of Oil* (104 minutes)
  - Available at Netflix for online streaming.
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 10-11.
- **Read** Chevalier, chapter 1, pp. 30-57.

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #5, June 11-15

- **View** the documentary film *The Big Energy Gamble* (53 minutes)

    - Available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/big-energy-gamble.html
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 12-13.
- **Read** Chevalier chapter 6.

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #6, June 18-22

- **View** the documentary film *Hot Politics* by Frontline (PBS)
    - Available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/video/flv/main.html?pkg=2510&seg=1&mod=1
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 14-16.
- **Read** Ryan Lizza, "As the World Burns: How the Senate and the White House Missed their Best Chance to Deal with Climate Change," in *The New Yorker*, October 11, 2010. (9,700 words).
    - Available at: http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/11/101011fa_fact_lizza

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #7, June 25-30

- **View** the documentary film *Car of the Future* (53 minutes)
    - Available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/car/program.html
- **Read** Friedman, chapter 17-19.
- **Read** Chevalier, chapter 9.

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #8, July 2-6

- Groups summarize their respective specialized chapter from Chevalier's book.
- Check the Announcement function in Webcourses@UCF for instructions on how to organize this work.
- **There are no Quiz or Discussion Board Participation this week.**

Week #9, July 9-13: FINAL EXAM on July 12-13

- **The Final Exam window will open on Thursday July 12 in the morning and close at 11:59 P.M. on Friday July 13. Do not miss it!**