INR 4054-0W59
Fall 2015
Modern Political Ideologies

Department of Political Science
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Marien
Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu

Teaching Assistant: Kendal Arthur

OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE LOCATION	OFFICE PHONE NUMBER
Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	UCF Orlando Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012
Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 PM	UCF Cocoa: Bldg. 3, room 223	321-433-7952
Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	UCF Orlando, Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012

If you plan to visit me during office hours, it is suggested (not required, simply suggested) that you email your intention ahead of time. (Advanced notice helps me selecting who I see first when several students show up at the same time.)

If you cannot come to my office, phoning during office hours can also be an effective way of solving various issues. Phoning allows for a richer interaction than email exchange. A phone conversation outside of office hours can also be scheduled via email exchange.

Basic Expectations

Students are expected to: (1) always have a working connection to the internet; (2) to promptly procure the textbooks; (3) to regularly log-on to the course's website in Webcourses; (4) to take quizzes and submit postings in due time; (5) to regularly consult the Announcements function in Webcourses (for general updates on course progress); and (6) to regularly consult their Knights email (for personal messages).

Course Contents

Energy has historically made an immense contribution to the development of civilization and the development of human powers and faculties. Yet, it has also soiled the land, air and water on which humans rely for a healthy and fulfilling life. Energy and human well-being will intersect even more powerfully in the 21st century than 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 with a particular emphasis on the United States.

The basic political challenge of the global energy system can be summarized thus. A fast growing human population needs more energy, particularly in low and middle income countries where accessing modern living standards can only happen through the consumption of more energy inputs. At the same time, humankind can hardly afford more of the various kinds of environmental contaminations and risks associated with traditional fossil fuels.

Air and water pollution as well as man-made climate change demand a rapid reduction in emissions of greenhouses gases and other noxious substances (sulfur dioxide, organic volatile compounds, mercury, etc.) linked to the production and combustion of oil, gas and coal.

The global energy system thus seems poised at a crossroads between further expanding traditional energy sources at the expense of environmental integrity and human health and well-being and a technologically, economically and politically challenging transition towards more environmentally friendly energies.

This historical moment of decision is marked by the emergence of a "new frontier in fossil fuels" dramatically sharpening the predicament we face. New methods for extracting traditional fuels are quickly emerging in the form of tar sand oil, hydraulic fracturing of oil and natural gas, deep sea and Arctic drilling, and retreat mining of coal. These new technologies promise a renewed abundance of fossil fuels but at the cost of

higher environmental risks and damage. In effect, the new sources of fossil fuels exacerbate the basic dilemma of the global energy system.

Course Materials

You will need to purchase the works listed below. All three are available both in paper and in electronic formats for an affordable price. Later in the semester, you may have to disburse a small fee to rent online documentaries. (Most documentaries are likely to available for free, however.)

Thomas Friedman
Hot, Flat and Crowded Release 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 first (2008) edition

> **(Avoid the first, 2008, edition. You have the wrong book if the title page does NOT say "Release 2.0 Updated and Expanded.")**

Bruce Podobnik
Global Energy Shifts: Fostering Sustainability in a Turbulent Age
Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006, ISBN: 9781592132942.

John Cushman
Keystone and Beyond: Tar Sands and the National Interest in the Era of Climate Change. Climate News, 2014, ISBN: 0692271414.

Other required or suggested materials will be made available in electronic form in Webcourses under Files.

Assessment Summary Table

WHAT	WHEN	POINTS
Before Course Knowledge of Energy WARNING: This simple submission frees up your financial aid.	Friday 8/28, 5:00pm	1

Weekly Quizzes	Weeks #1-10 (from 8/31 to 11/2) by Monday Evenings 11:59 P.M.	25
Answers to Questions from weekly modules	Weeks #1-10 (from 8/31 to 11/2) by Monday Evenings 11:59 P.M.	20
ECP Engaging class participants with respectful and well thought-out criticism on their previous weeks' answers to evaluation questions.	Weeks #2-11. In the Weekly ECP Discussion Boards ECP closes on Nov. 9	10-15 2.5 pts for each of first 4 postings. Opportunity for extra credit by posting 2 more . Only one posting per week.
Interim Research Descriptions (Not an outline or draft.)	Mondays, 11:59 pm Nov. 9; Nov. 16; Nov. 23. (Weeks 11-14)	Not graded but compulsory, point penalties (-3) applied for each non-submission. Consult the instructor's feedback on your IRDs. .
After Course Knowledge of Energy	Monday 11/30 by 11:59 pm	4
Research Report A research essay or a book review. Length: 1,500-2,000 words, plus relevant images and/or video clips.	Friday Dec. 4 by 11:59 P.M.	30
Submission of vote (with arguments) expressing preference for which of the	Monday morning Dec. 7	Not graded but compulsory, point penalties applied for

report from your own group should be assigned to the final quiz.		non-performance.
Group Editors finish assembling their respective Group Reports on Course Wiki.	Monday morning Dec. 7	A maximum of three bonus points for volunteers. Only one editor per group.
Final Quiz A brief quiz covering the selected research reports authored by students.	Monday, Dec. 14 Between 8:00 am and 11:59 pm	10

Assessment Description

Before/After Knowledge Submissions (1 + 4 points respectively)

Before Knowledge: take 400 to 800 words to express what you already know or think about the global energy system before taking this course. Simply answer the broad questions in the Assignment Box by attaching a Word file. There is no right or wrong answer here. A single point is attached to this submission, but timely disbursement of your financial aid depends on it…

> **Deadline: August 28 at 5:00pm.**
>
> **THIS IS IMPORTANT TO SECURE THE TIMELY DISBURSEMENT OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID.**

After Knowledge: at the end of the semester you will review your initial answers to these questions and explain how the course changed your views on energy issues (or not). Four points are attached to this submission. **Deadline: Nov. 30 at 11:59pm.**

Weekly Quizzes on Assigned Materials: 25 points

Each quiz will count from 10 to 20 multiple choice questions. Time will be limited. You have access to the book. The quiz closes on the next Monday evening at 11:59 P.M.

Answers to Discussion Questions: 20 points

Each week students must post their answers to discussion questions in the general Weekly Discussion Board in Webcourses. The general Weekly Boards close on the next Monday evenings at 11:59 A.M.

Discussion questions are communicated in the weekly module, available in Webcourses under Modules, one week ahead of the submission deadline. For example, questions with a submission deadline of August 31 are circulated in the WEEK 1 Module available under Files starting August 24.

Discussion questions will be of three kinds: reading comprehension; application, evaluation. **Reading comprehension questions** test your understanding of the assigned readings. **Application questions** challenge you to apply a concept defined in the readings in a different context or to a different example than the one referred to in the readings. This is also a way of verifying that you understand the reading. **Evaluation questions** solicit your considerate judgment on an issue, idea or concept. Develop an argument grounded in reasons and data. Avoid making unsupported assertions.

Each weekly posting by an individual student must be written in good academic English (avoid imprecise or familiar language) and add up to a minimum of 600 original words (all answers taken together).

Engaging Class Participants: 10 points (5 extra credit points possible)

You are expected to engage classmates on their answers to evaluation questions related to the assigned material four times throughout the semester.

Each thoughtful post of 200 words or more earns 2.5 points for a total of 10 points. Two additional postings can earn you up to extra-credit 5 points also at the rate of 2.5 per posting. Only one posting per student per week.

> **How?** Find a class mate's answer to an evaluation question in the previous week's Discussion Boards you wish to comment on, add to, disagree with, or somehow enlarge on. Write a post in the ECP Discussion Board (200 words minimum) engaging this student.

Start your post by identifying the student by name and the posting's week by number, then very briefly summarize or quote the passage you wish to engage, finally articulate a comment, an objection or develop a question challenging the student's assertion, etc.

Inform the students via course mail that his/her answer has been challenged. The student can respond to your challenge by his/her own post (300 words minimum) and also thus earn credit for one post (provided that the response contains new material, argument or data.

When? The ECP Discussion Boards lag over the Discussion Boards. They will open on Aug. 31 (start of WEEK 2) and close on Nov. 9.

Course Design

The End Point: A Description of the Research Report and Sharing Process

The course is designed to convert students from passive receivers of knowledge into active producers of knowledge sharing their research results with their peers. Students will learn about ideologies, but they will also learn how political scientists develop questions about energy politics and policies, construct answers grounded in evidence and share them with others.

The course culminates towards the end of the semester in an exercise in research and publication through which all students put together a research report and present it to the rest of the class on an electronic platform (wiki). Taken together the whole set of reports resembles a group-authored book composed under the general editorship of the instructor and the teaching assistant.

Research reports are individually produced book reviews or research essays supplemented by related images and/or video clips in a format resembling a Wikipedia article. The reports are evaluated for content (mostly) and style.

Instructor and teaching assistant assist the students during each step of the process.

One report per group is assigned by group members for the final exam. Each student plays an active role in selecting the report from his or her group subjected to exam. And, of course, each student will read the sub-set of reports selected to final exam. Thus each student will consult his/her group members' reports (to decide which one should be assigned to the final quiz) and each student will also read the reports assigned to the final quiz. Thus, students generate a portion of the materials presented in the course.

The course stresses individual accountability. There are no group scores, only individual scores related to individual performance of the various tasks, whether the task is individual or collaborative in nature.

In formal terms, students' individual research reports take the form of either a research essay or a book review. A research essay is a text answering a specific research question with the help of multiple sources (books, academic journal articles, others). A book review summarizes and evaluates a single book's argument.

Research questions are developed with the help of the instructor and TA. The selection of a book for review is also assisted by the instructor and TA. Brief Interim Research Descriptions help the instructor and TA guide the students in composing effective research reports. They are not drafts of report or outlines.

More detailed descriptions of the process and grading standards for research reports will be circulated in due time.

The Preparatory Phase

However, before undertaking to write a research report on energy politics or policy, students must become familiar with basic knowledge related to the topic.

And so during the first phase of the course (weeks 1-10), all course participants discuss the same materials. Weekly exercises include quizzes and answering discussion questions. You are also required to engage your classmates and/or the instructor in dialogue in the Engaging Class Participants Discussion Board.

Course Goals and Objectives

- ### Course Goals

1. Understanding the historical connections between energy transitions and hegemonic transitions in the world system.
2. 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.
3. Understanding the arguments for and against developing new methods for extracting fossil fuels.
4. Understanding the "oil curse" afflicting many energy exporting nations.

5. Understanding the challenge to economic development created by energy poverty in much of the Third World.
6. Develop students' ability to raise and answer political science questions related to ideologies.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites include an open mind and a readiness to reflect on the subject matter. There are no prerequisites in the sense of having completed specific previous courses beyond English Composition.

Course Credits

3 credits

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0 - 59	F

Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for missing weekly quizzes or discussion postings. One justified absence from these exercises will be excused without point penalty. If you must miss a quiz or weekly posting, it is strongly recommended that you contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Grades of Incomplete

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Use my email to communicate with me: Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu. Allow up to 48 hours for a response. Repeat message if you haven't received a response within 48 hours.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access:
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Academic Conduct Policy:
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a failing grade for the entire course and can also result in expulsion from the University.

Turinitin.com:
In this course the instructor may utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. The instructor submits your texts or essays to Turnitin at his discretion. Student found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the entire course.