



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2019

### 8,361: Energy Transition Foreign Policy

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (10%)

Decentral - Active participation (35%)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (15%)

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,361,1.00 Energy Transition Foreign Policy](#) -- Englisch -- [Thaler Philipp](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

Open to all students with an interest in international dimensions of energy.

Good level of English is a prerequisite. Prior attendance of classes taught by the lecturer (or similar classes at other universities) is welcome. Basic level of international, energy and climate politics is an advantage.

#### Course content

The energy transition is picking up speed. New technologies drive the switch from fossil fuels to renewables at unprecedented levels. Around the world, many countries have initiated ambitious energy and climate policies. Governance mechanisms develop at all levels of government - from municipal energy plans to the Paris Agreement - to ensure that the set targets will be met.

At the same time, the global energy transition challenges established patterns of foreign and security policy. For more than a century, the geopolitics of oil and gas have coined the international order. Ownership and access to these resources have shaped regimes, defined international partnerships and even caused wars. The surge of renewables is set to bring fundamental changes to the global energy economy and geopolitics.

New issues of concern arise that will reshape the global order known from the past century. They relate to the rise of renewables and include access to renewable energy sources and critical materials, protection of the energy system from cyberattacks, and technology transfer. However, the geopolitics of renewable energy have received surprisingly little attention so far. How does the energy transition affect foreign policy, as we know it? And how will international energy governance evolve in a post-carbon world?

These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this seminar, taught by Dr. Philipp Thaler. He is a PostDoc for Energy Governance at the Institute for Political Science at the University of St. Gallen. Besides his research in academia, he has worked on issues of energy governance and market regulation at energy and climate think tank E3G, the European Commission and as a consultant in the private sector.

#### Course structure

The course consists of two main parts. Sessions before the term break will review the existing structure of global energy relations. Sessions after the term break will be concerned with challenges to the current system and the international energy order in a post-carbon world. In the first and the seventh sessions, the **lecturer will introduce** his perspective on past and future aspects of global energy relations. The first session will also include an introduction to the course, where topics for group



presentations will be assigned (see below).

For all other sessions, **active student participation** is essential. Each student is expected to have done the required readings in order to contribute actively to class discussions.

Four sessions are **joint sessions**: after a brief discussion of the literature (20 minutes), students work in small groups on specific topics and related policy questions (40 minutes). At the end of these sessions, groups present and discuss each other's work (30 minutes). Students' individual contributions to the group work and the discussions will be part of their grade for active participation.

Four sessions are **case studies**: for each of these sessions, a student team of approximately 3 to 5 students will prepare a 30-minute group presentation for the class. The teams are formed and the topic of the presentation assigned in the introductory session to the course (session 1 and 2). Each presentation will address one of the seminar questions by using the required readings as well as a minimum of 10 additional references. Teams are encouraged to include a comparative or an international dimension as well as empirical data in their presentation. Other criteria for grading include originality, coherence of the argument, analytical precision, and presentation quality. Files are due three days prior to their presentation in class and must be shared with other participants by uploading electronic versions on the course's online discussion forum (folder 'stud. Presentations'). Before, outlines of the presentations can be shared with the lecturer for comments. The presentation will be discussed (5 minutes) by another, preassigned student team. Elements of a good discussion will be presented to the students in the introductory session. After these comments, remaining questions will be addressed in a discussion among all students of the course.

At the end of the seminar, each student is required to write a short (1000 to 1500 words) **reflection paper**, which is to be submitted at the end of the last week of classes. This reflection paper will address how the research experience and seminar discussions altered the student's preliminary thinking on the course topic. Elements of a good reflection paper will be presented to the students in the introductory session.

In the final class, the lecturer will facilitate a debriefing session on lessons learned.

The presentation represents 40 % of the grade, and each team member will receive the same grade. The comment following another group's presentation represents another 10 % of the grade and is also a team grade. Active classroom participation, which includes the contribution to the group work throughout the four joint sessions represents 35% of the grade and is based on individual performance. The reflection paper represents 15% of the grade and is based on individual performance.

### ***Preliminary course structure:***

1. and 2.: Lecture and introduction to the course: the international order of fossil fuels
3. Joint session 1: The politics of energy security
4. Joint session 2: Energy diplomacy
5. Case study 1: American, Russian and Chinese external energy policy. How does global power relate to energy?
6. Case study 2: European external energy policy; the EU, Germany and Switzerland. What has shaped their relations with partners and global role?
7. Lecture: the geopolitics of renewable energy
8. Joint session 3: Energy transitions and IR
9. Joint session 4: Emerging challenges and energy policy
10. Case study 3: from IEA to IRENA. A new global energy order?
11. Case study 4: the properties of Energy Transition Foreign Policy. What role for energy in the new global order?
12. Final reflections

## **Course literature**

Mandatory and additional literature will be listed for every session of this course. The three publications below provide a



general overview over topics covered within this course.

- Scholten, Daniel (Ed.) (2018). *The Geopolitics of Renewables*. Springer International Publishing (to be ordered by the HSG library)
- [IEA World Energy Outlook 2018, Executive Summary, Paris: IEA](#), (access to the pdf via the HSG network or VPN)
- [REN21: Renewables 2018 Global Status Report, Key Findings, Paris: REN21/UNEP](#)

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/4)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

##### Remark

Group presentation (on one of the case studies)

##### Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/4)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (10%)

##### Remark

Group discussion (on one of the case studies)

##### Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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#### 3. Examination sub part (3/4)



## Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (35%)

## Remark

All class activities (especially joint sessions)

## Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

## Supplementary aids

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## 4. Examination sub part (4/4)

### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (15%)

### Remark

Reflection paper (1000-1500 words)

### Examination-aid rule

Term papers

- Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship.
- The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the APA or MLA standards. The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into the text in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C. (2017), Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (12th ed., Cornelsen Schweiz).
- For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers both according to the MLA and the APA standard is never optional.
- Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.
- For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOROK R. et SCHINDLER B. (2018, Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (6. Auflage), Zürich: Schulthess, or the recommendations of the Law School).

### Supplementary aids

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### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

Content of faculty and student presentations; content of student discussions; practitioner debate; climate change; sustainable development; international and national energy policy; global energy governance; implications for policymakers and for businesses.

## Examination relevant literature

All background and mandatory course literature (updated throughout the course) as well as lecture notes. Students are expected



to find additional literature (at least 10 references) for their group presentations.

- Scholten, Daniel (Ed.) (2018). *The Geopolitics of Renewables*. Springer International Publishing (to be ordered by the HSG library)
- [IEA World Energy Outlook 2018, Executive Summary](#). Paris: IEA. (access to the pdf via the HSG network or VPN)
- [REN21: Renewables 2018 Global Status Report, Key Findings](#). Paris: REN21/UNEP

## Please note

We would like to point out to you that this fact sheet has absolute priority over other information such as StudyNet, faculty members' personal databases, information provided in lectures, etc. When will the fact sheets become binding?

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral and grading form): from the start of the bidding process on 24 January 2019
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 18 March 2019
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 08 April 2019

Please look at the fact sheet once more after these deadlines have expired.