



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

### 8,361: Energy Transition and Foreign Policy

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (45%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (5%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (25%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (25%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

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

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

This course is open to all students with an interest in global energy studies and the geopolitics of renewable energy.

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

#### Learning objectives

In this course, students will identify:

- the different ways in which renewable energy sources (RES) challenge existing structures of international energy affairs and International Relations (IR);
- examine varieties of domestic energy transitions and their international effect; evaluate the relationship between RES and power; assess reasons for progress, resistance and backlash in the international energy transition;
- analyze the interests and interactions of policy-makers, stakeholders and incumbents;
- and apply key concepts and theories to make sense of the observed and anticipated developments.

By the end of this course students will have acquired a comprehensive and structured understanding of the transforming element RES bring to international energy affairs. They will be able to critically reflect upon opportunities and threats the global transition to renewables entails for individual states and the international system.

#### Course content

The energy transition is picking up speed. New technologies drive the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources (RES) 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 characterized the international order. Ownership and access to fossil fuel 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 re-shape the global order known from the 20th and early 21st century. They relate to the rise of RES in the global energy mix and include access to renewable energy and critical materials, protection of the energy system from cyberattacks, and technology transfer. Despite a growing body of scholarly contributions, the geopolitics of renewable energy have received surprisingly little political 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 Philipp Thaler. He is Senior Research Fellow and Project Director 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 with a view to current trends. 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 session, 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 completed the required readings in order to contribute actively to class discussions.

Seven sessions are **case studies**: for each of these sessions, a student team will prepare a 30-minute **group presentation** (in case not enough students are enrolled in the course, presentations will have to be held individually). The teams are formed and the topic of the presentation is assigned in the introductory session to the course. 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 e-learning platform (tab modules). Before, outlines of the presentations can be shared with the lecturer for comments. The presentation will be **discussed by another student team** (5 minutes). Elements of a good group discussion will be presented to the students in the introductory session. The discussion should not entail visual elements. After these comments, remaining questions will be addressed in a discussion among all students of the course.

Two 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.

At the end of the course, each student is required to write a short (1500 words, +/- 10%) **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 45% of the grade, and each team member will receive the same grade. The comment following another group's presentation represents another 5% 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 25% of the grade and is based on individual performance. The reflection paper represents 25% of the grade and is based on individual performance.

### Preliminary seminar topics

- The geopolitics of renewables
- The old players: The US, Russia and OPEC
- European external energy policy
- New major actors: China and India
- Multilateral and transnational action



- Industrial policy in times of the energy transition
- Cybersecurity and critical infrastructure

## Course literature

Mandatory and additional literature will be listed for every session of this course. The four publications below provide a general overview over topics covered within this course.

- Scholten, Daniel (Ed.) (2018). The Geopolitics of Renewables. Springer International Publishing (available as e-book via the HSG library)
- Högselius, Per (2019). Energy and Geopolitics. Routledge (available as e-book via the HSG library)
- IEA World Energy Outlook 2019, Paris: IEA. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/energy/world-energy-outlook-2020\\_557a761b-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/energy/world-energy-outlook-2020_557a761b-en) (available via HSG institutional login)
- REN 21: Renewables Global Status Report 2020, Paris: REN21/UNEP. <https://www.ren21.net/reports/global-status-report/>

## Additional course information

In case parts or the entire course have to be held online, the main course components (including topics, readings, presentations, participation, and grading) will be unaffected by this change.

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Spring 2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform zoom
- The course will be recorded and recordings will be available online
- The lecturer informs students via StudyNet and/or e-mail in the eventuality of any changes

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations and discussions are conducted online and are being recorded
- The different examination parts as well as their weight to the overall grade remain unaffected. There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

## 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) (45%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Group/individual presentation on seminar topic

##### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

##### Supplementary aids

--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



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

### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (5%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

Discussion of other group presentation

### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

### Supplementary aids

--

### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

---

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

### Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (25%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

Active class participation

### 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

--

### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

---

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

### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (25%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

Individual reflection paper on course content

### 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 which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B.,



Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts 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., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. 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.

## Supplementary aids

--

## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

---

## 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.

### Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).