The International Politics of Energy and Climate Change: Sustainability and Security (PS203)

Professor Andrew T. Price-Smith
Colorado College
Block 4, 2012

Class Time: 12:45- 3:15pm  Office Hours: M/W/Th3-4pm
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This course analyzes the effects of the USA’s dependency on foreign energy (notably oil), and increasing resource scarcity (peak oil theory) on climate change and national security. The course also analyses the effects of coal, nuclear and renewable energy on climate change dynamics.

We also investigate the political and technological challenges to climate mitigation and adaptation, and examine the projected perils (direct and indirect) that climate change poses to US national security, and the problems in international governance that obstruct coherent solutions to this problem of the global commons.

The course contrasts orthodox theories of national security, with novel conceptualizations of ‘human security.’ We discuss the critical notion of sustainable development as a path to enhanced national security, with an eye to the positive role that the effective use of resources, development of sustainable energy technologies, ecosystem preservation and improved human health have upon the formation of ‘virtuous spirals.’ Conversely, this course also examines how the degradation of ecosystems, scarcity of resources, and energy dependency may combine to generate ‘vicious spirals,’ plunging affected societies into diplomatic turmoil, economic chaos, and political conflict.

Specific topics include climate change and national security, energy dependency and diplomacy, non-linearity and chaos theory.

Required Texts:

Grading Scheme:
Participation: 30%, Final Paper: 40%, Simulation: 30%

Fine Print:
Assignments will not be accepted via e-mail, nor by fax, but only in hard copy. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day. Class participation involves regular attendance, preparation for discussion of the readings, and regular participation within class debates and activities. In order to ensure a positive learning
environment there is a zero tolerance level for rudeness, disruptive and/or otherwise offensive behavior. Further, in accordance with CC Honor Code there is a zero tolerance level for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

Day 1 – Intro
no assigned readings

Day 2 – Basic Concepts
Shaffer, Introduction
- E.O. Wilson, “The Ionian Enchantment,” from E.O. Wilson, Consilience, pp. 3-48 (e-res)
- Giddens, Intro, CH 1

Day 3 Time, Nature and the State
- Paul Pierson, Politics in Time, 2009
- Shaffer CH 1, 2
- Stokes and Raphael Intro, CH 1

Day 4 The Coal Problem and the Nuclear Option
- World Resources Institute, Global Coal Risk Assessment

Day 5 Renewables and the Future

**Day 6 Two Level Games and the Frontier**
• Stokes CH 2

**Day 7 Energy and Diplomacy**
• Shaffer CH 2
• Stokes and Raphael 3, 4

**Day 8 Energy and Global Governance**
• Shaffer CH 3,4
• Stokes, CH 5

**Day 9 Energy and International Security**
• Shaffer CH 5,7
• Stokes, 6, Conclusion

**Day 10 Research Day**
Giddens CH 2, 3
Shaffer 10, 11

**Day 11 Climate Change and Diplomacy: The Debate**
• Giddens, Chapters 5-6
• World Bank, *Turn Down the Heat*, exec sum, Nov 2012

**Day 12 Climate Change and Dynamics of Security**
• Giddens, CH 9
• Nicole Detraz, “Threats or Vulnerabilities? Assessing the Link between Climate Change and Security,” *Global Environmental Politics*, August 2011, 104-120.

**Day 13 Whither The Environment and International Politics?**
• Giddens CH 8

**Day 14 Simulation**

**Day 15 Research Day**

**Day 16 Adaptation and a Green Realism?**
• Giddens, Ch 7, Afterword
ESSAY ASSIGNMENT
Topics: your choice (with permission of Prof). Must contain a significant question involving the relationship between the domains of political science and environment and/or health. Topics lacking these components will be automatically rejected.

Set-up
1. Introduction: (presentation of topic, presentation of defined research question, literature review)
2. Evidence: presentation of evidence, data, supporting your claims
3. Conclusion: summary of your findings
Note: you MUST cite your sources, failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and will result in a violation of the honor code and an automatic grade of F. I will randomly select 1/3 of papers and feed them into a plagiarism database to make sure that cheating does not occur.

Examples of Footnote/Endnote style (Chicago Manual of Style)
1. If you cite a passage from a book it should read as:
   Author, Title of Book, (City: Publisher, publishing date), page #.
2. If you cite a passage from a journal or newspaper article:
   Author (if available), Title of article, Journal name, date of article, and page # (e.g. B7)
3. If you cite a passage from a web-site or other digital source:
   Author, title of article, date article was taken from the web, complete URL, and page #
   Note: be wary of certain digital resources that you find on the web (data from many sites are less than neutral and/or reliable). Exercise your informed discretion.

Due: Last Day of Block…. at beginning of class (i.e. 12:45 pm).
Penalty: 10% off grade per day late, including weekends (no exceptions).
Papers not submitted by end of subsequent block will result in automatic aggregate grade of NC.