

JSIA Cross Elective Course: Energy Security and Diplomacy

Course Instructor: Ambassador Sanjiv Arora, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs & Adjunct Professor and Distinguished Fellow, JSIA

Course Type: Cross Elective

Course Level: BA & MA students

Course Credits: 4 credits.

Course Code: M.A. (DLB)0609

Semester: Fall 2026

About the Course Instructor

Ambassador Sanjiv Arora, who has dealt with economic, commercial and energy issues extensively and substantively during his long career, plans to execute this course with the active participation of every student as an equal stakeholder and with a view to not only expand the awareness and knowledge of students but also to meaningfully contribute to the achievement of their academic and career objectives.

Among his many assignments at headquarters and abroad, Mr Arora served as Acting Consul General during the Gulf War, longest serving Commercial Representative in Germany, Consul General in USA with responsibilities spanning Texas and eight other States, longest serving Ambassador to Qatar, Ambassador to Lebanon and finally, as Secretary in MEA. He has also been actively involved in multilateral diplomacy, having served as Head of United Nations (Political) Division in MEA for nearly 4 years. Mr Sanjiv Arora also has experience of India's immediate neighbourhood—he was Desk Officer for Sri Lanka in MEA and later, Counsellor in Colombo. He is among the few IFS officers to have been deputed to Ministry of Finance. After having topped both in Pre-Engg and BA (Hons) from Panjab University, followed by MBA from the same university, Mr Arora served in the corporate sector and RBI before joining the IFS.

Course Introduction (Objectives, Description and Intended Outcomes)

This course aims at enhancing the awareness and knowledge of students about a fascinating spectrum of energy security issues in the framework of geopolitics and international relations, and the significant contribution of diplomacy to the vast and multidimensional sphere of energy security. Besides imparting a sound conceptual background, the course aims to understand and analyse several important dimensions of energy security and the role of diplomacy, in practical terms, in promoting energy security at the national, regional and international levels and in managing energy security challenges that are often exacerbated by conflicts involving Nation States and / or non-state actors.

The course methodology will focus on an objective and analytical understanding and appreciation of practical situations, sharing, inter alia, the perspectives of a seasoned practitioner with extensive and substantive experience of economic, commercial and energy diplomacy. Besides sharing knowledge, perceptions, views and experiences, Ambassador Arora would encourage active participation by every student, as an equal stakeholder in the Class, so as to make the sessions truly interactive, interesting and productive for everyone. During the course, the students will be actively involved in presentations, case studies, simulation exercises, debates, etc with a view to improve their analytical, communication and negotiation skills that would contribute effectively to their pursuit of career options in diplomacy, administration, corporate sector, media, civic society organisations, research, etc. with greater knowledge, clarity and confidence.

Ambassador Arora will share more details about this popular cross-elective course at his introductory lecture during Fall Semester, 2026.

Tentative Class Schedule

1. An overview of the course on energy security and diplomacy: This will, inter alia, include general introduction of concepts; a briefing on the course objectives, description, methodology and intended outcomes; and responding to suggestions and questions from students.
2. Global energy security opportunities and challenges in a turbulent world, and the role of diplomacy, with particular focus on recent geopolitical developments, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US operation in Venezuela and Israel-US war against Iran.
3. The interplay of geography, geopolitics, energy security and diplomacy—historical and contemporary perspectives from the Suez crisis of 1956 upto the Strait of Hormuz crisis in 2026 and more.
4. West Asia and Global Energy Security—a diplomat's perspective.
5. Energy Security and Diplomacy at bilateral and regional levels.
6. Energy Security and Multilateral Diplomacy (including the UN, OPEC, GECCF, IEA, IRENA, ISA, G 7, G 20, SCO, etc).
7. Oil and Gas Pipelines—Opportunities and Challenges.
8. Cooperation in Renewable Sources of Energy and India's Leadership Role in International Solar Alliance (ISA).
9. Climate Change, Energy Security and Diplomacy.
10. Revision Session
11. Mid Term Examination
12. Presentation of Case Studies or Simulation Exercise
13. Presentation of Case Studies or Simulation Exercise
14. Debating Session or Guest Speaker Lecture
15. Revision Session
16. Beginning of Final Examinations

Course Assessment

- End-term: 30 %
- Mid-term assignments : 40 %
- Case Presentation / Simulation Exercise : 20 %
- Class Participation : 10 %

Plagiarism* Rules

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words OR ideas without proper acknowledgement. Any idea, sentence, or paragraph you take from a web source or from printed material must be credited with the original source. If you paraphrase or directly quote in the exam or essays, the source must be explicitly mentioned. You should not plagiarize content, be it from scholarly sources (i.e., books and journal articles) or from the Internet.

***JSIA Plagiarism Policy (25 Feb. 2021) applies**

Grade Definition

Grading and Comments			
Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Comments
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

Suggested Readings

(This is an indicative listing. The Course Instructor will regularly suggest other relevant readings)

- Victor, David G. and Kassia Yanosek. “The Next Energy Revolution: The Promise and Peril of High-Tech Innovation” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2017): 124-131
- Daniel Yergin, “The Oil Collapse” *Foreign Affairs*, April 2020.

- Meghan O’Sullivan. “The Entanglement of Energy, Grand Strategy and International Security” in *The Handbook of Global Energy Policy*, edited by Andreas Goldthau (John Wiley & Sons, 2013), pp. 30-47.
- Karen Stegen. "Deconstructing the energy weapon: Russia's threat to Europe as a case study" *Energy Policy* 39 (2011): 6505-6513.
- Christian Winzer, “Conceptualising Energy Security” *Energy Policy* 46 (2012): 36-48.
- Klare, Michael T. “There Will be Blood: Political Violence, Regional Warfare, and the Risk of Great-Power Conflict over Contested Energy Sources,” in *Energy Security Challenges in the 21st Century*, ed. Gal Luft and Anne Korin (Santa Barbara: Praeger Security International, 2009): 44-65.
- Fettweis, Christopher J. “No Blood for Oil: Why Resource Wars Are Obsolete,” in *Energy Security Challenges in the 21st Century*, ed. Gal Luft and Anne Korin (Santa Barbara: Praeger Security International, 2009): 66-77.
- Yergin, Daniel. (2011). *The quest : energy, security and the remaking of the modern world*. New York :Penguin Press, <https://www.amazon.in/Quest-Energy-Security-Remaking-Modern/dp/0143121944>
- Yergin, Daniel. (2020). *The New Map: Energy Climate and the clash of Nations*. Penguin Press, New York. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/317939/the-new-map-by-daniel-yergin/>
- Yergin, Daniel. (1990). *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*. Simon & Schuster. <https://www.amazon.in/Prize-Epic-Quest-Money-Power/dp/1439110123>
- Figueres Christiana, Rivett-Carnac Tom (2020). *Surviving the Climate Crisis*. Manilla Press. <https://www.amazon.in>
- Ahmad, Talmiz. (2022). *West Asia at War: Repression, Resistance and Great Power Games*. Harper Colins. <https://www.amazon.in/West-Asia-War-Repression-Resistance/dp/9354895255>
- Robinson, Jeffrey (1989). *Yamani: The Inside Story*. Atlantic Press. <https://www.amazon.in/Yamani-inside-Story-J-Robinson/dp/0871133237>
- [Heikal, Mohamed H \(1986\). *Cutting the Lion’s Tail: Suez through Egyptian Eyes*.](#)
- [Andre Deutsch. *https://www.amazon.in*](#)

Suggested Websites

(The Course Instructor will also regularly suggest other relevant websites)

1. UN:

- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=359&menu=1634>
- <https://unfccc.int/>
- <https://www.iaea.org/>

2. OPEC and West Asia:

- https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/

- <https://www.gecf.org/>

3. Government of India:

- <https://www.mea.gov.in/>

- <https://mopng.gov.in/en>

- <https://mnre.gov.in/>

- <https://isolaralliance.org/>

4. Energy Diplomacy and the World

- <https://www.iea.org/areas-of-work/ensuring-energy-security#:~:text=The%20IEA%20defines%20energy%20security,economic%20developments%20and%20environmental%20needs.>

- https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/energy-diplomacy_en

- <https://aseanenergy.org/energy-diplomacy-a-vital-piece-to-boost-renewable-energy-investment/>

- <https://www.state.gov/offices-bureau-of-energy-resources/>

- <https://ourworldindata.org/energy/country/china>

- <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-china-insights.pdf>