

Georgia Institute of Technology

FREN 4813/8803
Energy Humanities

Fall 2023, GT-E
Dr. Brigitte Stepanov

Course Description:

Energy Humanities is a field of study that looks at how societies are shaped by the energy that they produce, access, and consume. This course considers the representation of energy structures, both technical and social, in literature, film, and cultural artifacts more generally. Given the economic and environmental concerns impacting current debates about energy production and use, engaging with these mounting issues from multidisciplinary perspectives is more important than ever to help us dissect, understand, and confront energy-related challenges. Questions we will be tackling in this course include: What are the effects of geopolitics on the energy sector? What is the future of sustainable energy? What power do the Humanities offer in addressing these complex issues?

Taught in French.

The learning goals for this course are the following. By the end of this course, students will:

- Have an increased awareness of how energy is produced and consumed both locally and globally;
- Understand the relationship between energy, sustainability, and anthropogenic climate change;
- Recognize the necessity of humanistic inquiry in writing energy policy;
- Develop their critical thinking skills in writing and orally (through written essays and oral presentations);
- Witness the role and impact of energy production on the environment and, in response, discern an ethics of livability.

Assessment includes in-depth discussions in class, mini presentations, and attendance (30%); a midterm research paper (30%); and a final in-class research presentation (40%).