Instructor:
Dr. Joseph A. Stanislaw is founder of the advisory firm The JAStanislaw Group, LLC, and an independent senior advisor to the Energy & Resources group of Deloitte LLP. Dr. Stanislaw was a founder of Cambridge Energy Research Associates and was managing director for non-U.S. activity until he was named president and CEO. Dr. Stanislaw is an adjunct professor in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He serves on the boards of several corporations and private equity funds with interests in the areas of both traditional oil & gas, and clean, alternative and renewable energy. Dr. Stanislaw was a research fellow, lecturer in economics and founding member of the Energy Research Group at Cambridge University. He was a senior economist at the International Energy Agency in Paris. Dr. Stanislaw is the co-author of The Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy. Dr. Stanislaw received a B.A., cum laude, from Harvard College, a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Edinburgh, and holds an honorary doctorate and professorship from Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas.

I. Course Description
Energy of Geopolitics is an independent study course led by adjunct instructor, Dr. Joseph Stanislaw. This course is structured differently from many traditional courses, in that it allows students to have concentrated time, advice, and feedback from a current energy industry executive. Dr. Stanislaw will travel to Duke twice in the semester in order to teach this course and engage with students. Thus, the class is split into four sessions, two days in one month and two in the following month.

The method of the course is experiential and is structured around a “Board of Directors” and Board Committee” framework. Participants will be grouped into “Board Committees” that will work together to address, analyze, and recommend actions or a decision on an energy/environmental issue of relevance in the today’s volatile and uncertain global energy world. The Board Committees will create reading assignments, develop ideas and frameworks of analysis, and recommend actions or solutions. Each team will then present recommendations to the simulated “Board of Directors”.

This class provides an opportunity for students to practice and hone their research, presentation, and group work skills, as well as test their abilities to present persuasively in a simulated board room environment. They will then receive just-in-time feedback from Dr. Stanislaw in order to improve upon their skills and learn from the experience. Additionally, students will create a practical framework for thinking about real and perceived conflicts between energy markets, state politics and the environment arising from "globalization." The course framework will aid future decision-making, ranging from financial investment strategies and policy formation to personal actions.

Graduate students from all schools at Duke are desired in order to foster an interdisciplinary environment.

II. Meeting Dates & Times
February 3 and 4 (2 hours each morning)
March 30 and 31 (2 hours each morning)

III. Expectations:
Students are expected to attend all course sessions and complete the final report and presentation. Students are also expected to be active participants in all class discussions.
IV. Assessment and Grading:
Students will be evaluated based upon participation and quality of final report and presentation. The final report will be a PowerPoint board presentation and will be developed by groups (board committees) in between meeting sessions.

Grades will be calculated as follows:
- Participation: 1/3
- Final Report: 1/3
- Presentation: 1/3

V. Registration
Course enrollment is capped at 22 students. Registration is by permission number only, with initial priority given to professional students in the last year of their program. All graduate students at Duke, however, are welcome, as Dr. Stanislaw prefers as diverse a class as possible. To request a permission number or obtain additional information about the class, please contact Tim Johnson (Nicholas School) in a separate email at timothy.l.johnson@duke.edu.