

POP88234 The Politics of Energy

Lecturer: Dr. Curran Flynn

Module description

The Politics of Energy is an in-depth and comprehensive course that explores the intricate relationship between energy resources and international relations. This 5 week seminar course explores the phenomenon of the “resource curse”, how energy markets work, the creation and management of Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), how energy resources have been utilized as a coercive instrument in shaping foreign policy decisions, whether energy suppliers are more aggressive militarily, and an exploration of the global shift towards renewable energy sources. Students will gain a profound understanding of how energy resources have shaped the dynamics of power, conflicts, and cooperation among nations.

Learning aims

The module aims to allow students to analyze the politics of energy and its impact on contemporary society. Students will interpret the effects of economic production of energy through the lens of economics and foreign policy. Students will apply the knowledge learned to contemporary events to understand the implications of these events on contemporary global energy politics and their impact of different regions and countries. Students will evaluate the need for renewable energy and the implications of its adoption on the global economy and international relations.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Explain the economic, and political perspectives of energy and critically examine the politics of energy.
- Evaluate the economic strategies and effects of energy production on their host states.
- Critically reflect upon the key issues of contemporary global energy politics and their implications for different regions and countries.
- Examine the role of intergovernmental organizations as well as state and non-state actors.
- Debate the use and need for alternative energy sources.
- Elaborate on possible future trends in the international politics of energy

Assessment details

- Participation – 20%

- Response Papers – 20%
- Research Paper– 60%