

PO3A4-15 The Global Energy Challenge: Environment, Development & Security

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Kerem Öge

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Energy remains one of the essential ingredients of modern life but how we produce, transport, market and use energy is politically contested – now more than ever. Indeed, the complex energy systems upon which we rely have already started to transition, partly for environmental and developmental reasons. Many policymakers, politicians and other organisations around the world are faced with the ‘Herculean’ task of engendering sustainable system change whilst, at the same time, ensuring secure and affordable access to energy. Others, in countries highly reliant on energy income, need to address the geo-economic implications of change.

This module explores the complex politics of energy, the relationship between policy and energy systems, and the many different perspectives on energy policy, its aims and instruments. It uses case studies (Russia and the EU) to demonstrate some of these complexities. The overall aim is to equip students with sufficient understanding, analytical tools, to critically evaluate energy policy and politics.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This is a timely and highly relevant module that will give students the necessary tools to produce well-informed, evidence-based analyses of energy policies, the political thinking behind them, and evaluations of how policies relate to energy system change. Students will develop abilities to engage with and critically evaluate current political solutions to energy issues, including the need for emissions reduction, and to (re-)imagine alternative approaches to change. This should equip students with, highly necessary, skills to reflect upon how energy policy relates to climate change within a complex and changing world.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1: Historical Backdrop: Energy Systems, Politics & Society

Week 2: The Energy Trilemma

Week 3: Political Perspectives: HOW to Govern Energy

Week 4: Who Governs Energy?

Week 5: Energy Systems Transitions: Implications for Policy & Politics

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: Energy Policy in Action I: Transition Leaders Case Study: the EU

Week 8: Energy Policy in Action II: Transition Less in Focus. Case Study: Russia

Week 9: Energy Policy in Action III: Rescaling?

Week 10: Tensions, Challenges & Possible Futures

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Identify and discuss energy's role in modern society, and how this relates to energy policy and politics;
- Identify and analyse the key political perspectives on energy, and associated policy choices;
- Apply political perspectives to analyse the main institutions and actors involved in energy policymaking;
- Evaluate and critically assess energy policies, and how they relate to changes in energy systems.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

Ability to understand and discuss energy's role in modern society, and how this relates to energy policy and politics

Identify and analyse the key political perspectives on energy, and associated policy choices

Apply political perspectives to analyse the main institutions and actors involved in energy policymaking

Evaluate and critically assess energy policies, and how they relate to changes in energy systems

Transferable skills

Critical analytical skills

Ability to write cohesively about complex political subjects

Presentation and communications skills

Specific knowledge about energy, sustainability and policy

Ability to understand and engage with energy policy debates

Informed citizen

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	52 hours (35%)
Assessment	80 hours (53%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

TBC

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
2500 word essay	80%	60 hours	Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Policy Briefing Note	20%	20 hours	Yes (extension)
write a Policy Briefing Note of 800 words maximum, worth 20% of the marks for the module and assessed individually. The brief should answer the question of 'How to Govern the Energy Trilemma' in ONE country/region - students can choose from: the European Union (EU); the People's Republic of China; the Russian Federation; or the United Kingdom (UK)			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Feedback form via Tabula; optional verbal consultation

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics