

International Energy Governance

Contemporary political, social and economic life is heavily influenced by shifts in energy availability and fuel prices, determined on global markets and by international political dynamics. The course offers valuable insight into the actors and processes that define the international governance of energy. It explores the role played by states, international organizations, non-governmental and business actors in shaping and reshaping an international energy landscape marked by technological changes, energy supply crises, geopolitical shifts and climate change constraints.

Although in the last decades we witnessed the emergence of international organizations, regimes and dispute settlement processes aimed to make global energy markets more stable and predictable, energy crises are still impacting economies and societies. In addition to the issues of secure energy supply and affordable energy supply, climate change constraints bring into the spotlight concerns regarding the sustainability of our energy systems. This creates further challenges for the mechanisms of International Energy Governance, challenges the course aims to unpack and address with constructive solutions.

Energy availability and political conflict are an entangled duo we cannot ignore in International Governance, taking new shapes and posing new types of challenges in the contemporary economic and technological landscape. Energy fuels economies and its scarcity can fuel wars. Competition over energy resources remains an important source of international conflict, while cooperation on sustainable energy generation and fuels trade can lead to enhanced cooperation and geopolitical stability.

The reading list for this course includes a series of contemporary, policy relevant readings meant to prepare students academically, as well as for their professional lives. A few lectures of the course are given by leading professionals in the field of energy policy and international energy politics, bringing to the course the perspective of those closely involved in shaping national and international energy developments.

Students are evaluated based on the constructive engagement in the seminar discussions/ debates/ participation in a seminar simulation, as well as on a final argumentative essay on a pre-set question, followed by a conversation with the teacher. The evaluation process helps students solidify the knowledge gained, develop critical thinking and argumentative skills, as well as learn how to debate and present their points of view.