Energy Policy

GEOG 38325/78325

Hunter College, CUNY
Department of Geography
Fall semester 2024

Date/Time: Tuesday and Fridays 2:30-3:45 pm
Location: 1022 Hunter North
Course type: In Person
Instructor: Niloofar Nejatian
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Office hours: Tuesdays 4 – 5 pm and on appointment
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Course description

Energy policy is a critical area of study that addresses how societies produce, distribute, and consume energy, impacting both local communities and the global environment. This course explores the complexities of energy systems, focusing on the shift towards sustainable energy practices and the policies that influence this transition. Students will gain an understanding of global energy trends, the environmental impacts of various energy sources, and the policies that promote energy security, efficiency, and justice. The course covers a range of topics including renewable energy technologies, decentralized energy systems, and the role of government in shaping energy policy. Through lectures, discussions, case studies, and group projects, students will learn to critically analyze energy policies and propose innovative solutions for a sustainable and equitable energy future.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- **Analyze Energy Trends**: Describe key factors influencing global and national energy systems.
- **Understand Energy Policies**: Explain policy tools and frameworks used to regulate energy production and consumption.
- **Evaluate Environmental Impacts**: Assess the environmental impacts of various energy sources and related policies.
- **Assess Renewable Energy and Efficiency**: Evaluate policies promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- **Understand Energy Security**: Analyze strategies for achieving energy security and the role of decentralized systems.
- **Examine Climate-Energy Linkages**: Understand the connection between energy policy and climate change.
- **Explore Energy Justice**: Discuss issues of energy justice and equitable access to energy resources.
- **Develop Policy Solutions**: Create and present policy proposals addressing contemporary energy challenges.

- **Communicate Effectively**: Articulate policy arguments and recommendations clearly in both written and oral formats.

Prerequisites: None

Student evaluations

Participation: 10%
- Actively participate in class discussions based on readings from the required texts and additional articles provided on Blackboard.

Quizzes/Classwork Activities: 10%
- Complete quizzes or classwork activities throughout the semester to assess understanding of the course material and encourage engagement.

Midterm Exam: 20%
- Assess understanding of course material covered in the first half of the semester.

Final Exam: 20%
- Comprehensive exam covering all course content.

Final Project and Presentation: 40%
- Work in groups to choose a topic covered in class, bring an innovative perspective, or introduce new insights not mentioned in class.
- Write a paper: 20 pages for graduate students and 10 pages for undergraduate students.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation (10-15 slides) summarizing your paper.
- Present your project and findings to the class at the end of the semester.

Credit/No Credit policy

The Credit/No Credit system based on the non-letter grades of **CR/NC**. Students may elect the CR/NC system up until the beginning of the final exam. CR/NC grades are not averaged into the GPA; course requirements are the same as in the traditional grading system. If this system is chosen, students will be given the following CR/NC grade equivalents:

Credit (CR) → Grade of A, B, or C

No Credit (NC) → Grade of D or F (cannot replace/override WU, IN, or FIN)

Students requesting grading according to this system must satisfy evaluation requirements, including participation, complete all the assignments and take the final examination.

Hunter COVID-19 policy

Effective August 16, 2021, CUNY will not allow on campus anyone who hasn't been fully vaccinated (two weeks beyond the last vaccination shot) or tested negative for COVID-19 within the past 7 days. Students can upload their vaccination status or register for a COVID test at a CUNY Testing site either through email or Blackboard. **Students taking in-person or hybrid classes who fail to follow the vaccine mandate per CUNY policy will be subject to potential academic withdrawal that could also impact their financial aid and might not be eligible for**

refunds for the course. Due to the presence of Delta and other variants, CUNY has enacted a new temporary mask mandate. This mandate is subject to modification based on changing vaccination statistics and coronavirus transmission rates.

Hunter College Statement on Academic Integrity
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

ADA Policy
In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct
In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)
b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:
http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf

Communication
All email messages about this course should be signed with your full name as it appears in CUNYfirst. Professionalism and "*netiquette*" are expected in the communication through emails

(check out those links). If your emails are not replied to in a timely fashion, please consider rewriting your emails in a better way.

Essential class policies
There are no incompletes given for the course with the exception of a proven medical emergency. No late exams are accepted. You will receive a grade of "0" on any exam not taken if you do not have a documented medical excuse for missing the exam. I take attendance as I believe that class participation is an important part of your grades. If you email me during the week, you can expect a return email within 36 hours. I may not answer during the weekends. Please do not bring iPods or earphones to class and do not use your cell phones or laptop computers except to take notes. Please do not bring food to class.

Hybrid course policies
In an In-Person class, all required class meetings occur on campus, during scheduled class meeting times. Contact includes instruction, learning activities, and interactions (both student-student and student-instructor). An In-Person class where material is provided online, via a learning management system or website, does not displace any of the required contact hours that would normally occur in a scheduled In-Person class. Assignment deadlines and exams days/times are maintained and included in the class syllabus.

Mask mandate
Due to the low levels of COVID-19 in New York City, the CDC no longer recommends and New York State no longer has a universal indoor mask mandate. CUNY has therefore lifted its temporary mask mandate. Anyone who would like to continue wearing masks in any setting is welcome to do so at any time. Masks will continue to be available on campus and offices.

Syllabus Change Policy
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard, which students are expected to check regularly during the semester.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Energy Policy

- Overview of course objectives, syllabus review, and expectations.
- Introduction to energy policy, its importance, and its impact on society, economy, and environment.

Week 2: Energy Fundamentals and Global Energy Landscape

- Basics of energy, types of energy (renewable vs. non-renewable), energy units, and measurements.

- Overview of global energy production, consumption patterns, and major energy-producing countries.

Week 3: Energy Policy Frameworks and Energy Economics

- Introduction to policy frameworks and tools used in energy policy.
- Basics of energy economics, supply and demand, pricing, and market dynamics.

Week 4: Environmental Impacts of Energy Use

- Environmental impacts of different energy sources, including greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and ecological footprint.

Week 5: Renewable Energy Policies and Energy Efficiency

- Overview of renewable energy sources and policies promoting renewables.
- Concepts of energy efficiency and conservation, policies and technologies for improving energy efficiency.

Week 6: Energy Security and Decentralized Energy Systems

- Definition of energy security, its importance, and strategies for achieving energy security.
- Introduction to decentralized energy systems (e.g., microgrids, distributed generation) and their role in enhancing energy security.

Week 7: Midterm Exam

- Midterm exam covering all topics discussed in sessions 1–6.

Week 8: Climate Change and Energy Policy

- The relationship between energy policy and climate change, international agreements, and carbon pricing.

Week 9: Energy Justice and Equity

- The concept of energy justice, addressing energy poverty, and ensuring fair access to energy resources and benefits.

Week 10: Emerging Energy Technologies

- Introduction to emerging energy technologies (e.g., hydrogen, energy storage, smart grids), and their potential impact on future energy policies.

Week 11: The Role of Government in Energy Policy

- The role of local, national, and international governments in shaping energy policy, regulatory bodies, and policy-making processes.

Week 12: The Future of Energy Policy

- Exploration of future trends in energy policy, including the transition to sustainable energy systems, innovations in technology, and evolving global and local regulations.
- Discussion on the role of international cooperation and policy frameworks in addressing global energy challenges.

Week 13: Final Exam

- Final exam covering all topics discussed in sessions 7–12.

Week 14: Final Project Presentations

- Introduction to the final project requirements and expectations.
- Group formation and project topic selection, followed by an in-class work session for project development.

Week 15: Final Project Presentations

- Presentation of final projects by each group, followed by peer and instructor feedback.