Political Science 19N
Politics of Energy Efficiency

Course Description

Sophomore Seminar (5 units). We will examine the political context of energy efficiency and climate change. Why are some countries, such as Japan and France, able to achieve high levels of energy efficiency, while others, such as the United States and Australia, struggle to do so? What political factors facilitate or impede energy efficiency policies? Why is international cooperation on climate change so difficult?

Course Requirements

**Participation** (40%): You should come to class prepared to actively discuss the readings for the session.

**Final Paper** (60%): A 20 page research paper (4000-6000 words) related to the class material (Due: March 22). The instructor will provide suggested paper topics. Students will present their preliminary research to the class.

General Policies

Active participation in class discussions is required – absences must be cleared prior to the session with the instructor. Unexcused absences will result in a half letter grade reduction in the student’s final grade (e.g., A → A-, etc.). Late assignments will be penalized by half a letter grade each day the assignment is late.

Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites.

Readings

Readings will be made available on course work.
Overview of Topics

Week 1 (1/8) Introduction / Overview
Week 2 (1/15) Approaches to the Study of the Politics of Energy
Week 3 (1/22) Politics of Energy in Developed Countries I
Week 4 (1/29) Politics of Energy in Developed Countries II
Week 5 (2/12) The Politics of Resource Production & OPEC
Week 6 (2/19) Climate Change
Week 7 (2/26) Case Study: Japan
Week 8 (3/5) Case Study: Europe
Week 9 (3/12) Case Study: China

3/22: Final Paper Due at 5pm

Students with Documented Disabilities:

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, phone (650) 723-1066.
Week 1: Introduction & Overview

Week 2: Approaches to the Study of the Politics of Energy & Energy Efficiency


Week 3: Politics of Energy in Developed Countries I


Week 4: Politics of Energy in Developed Countries II


**Week 5: The Politics of Resource Production & OPEC**


**Week 6: Climate Change**


**Week 7: Case Study - Japan**


**Week 8: Case Study – European Union**


**Week 9: Case Study – China**


**3/22:** Final Paper Due at 5pm