

Faculty of Economics & Political Science

Natural Resources and Energy Geopolitics: Selected Topics

Information :

Course Code : PSC 411

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Science

Area Of Study :

Security of resources has always been a national security concern for countries and it goes in some cases to the international level to represent a global threat that requires collective action and coordination among the inhabitants of the planet. This course analyzes specific selected topics out of the broad topic of national resources and energy security.

Course Goals:

- Address the most enduring questions of energy resources, nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Become aware of the goals and functions of state, regional and international institutions in providing and regulating energy resources.
- Comprehend and analyze the most important theories of energy security.

Description :

Security of resources has always been a national security concern for countries and it goes in some cases to the international level to represent a global threat that requires collective action and coordination among the inhabitants of the planet. This course analyzes specific selected topics out of the broad topic of national resources and energy security.

Course outcomes :

a.Knowledge and Understanding: :

1 -	Define historical traits and frameworks related to contemporary energy security, such as; the role of the state, the role of the companies, and environmental issues.
2 -	Recognize current challenges facing energy security on the national, regional and international levels such as: geopolitical competition, resource scarcity, and the tradeoff between pollution and energy security.

b.Intellectual Skills: :

1 -	Employ different methodologies and a critical way of thinking about resource allocation and energy policies.
2 -	Deepen the knowledge of energy politics.
3 -	Outline the situation of social justice in resource distribution.
4 -	Emphasize on understanding the challenges faced by the domestic, regional and global community in dealing with energy resources.

c.Professional and Practical Skills: :

1 -	Relate and connect between historical events and the current energy situation or economic performance, such as the 1973 energy crisis, the invasion of Iraq and the Great Recession in 2008.
2 -	Employ gained knowledge in the analysis of a variety of case studies.

- 3 - Illustrate the art of research and use of methodologies in essay writing.

d.General and Transferable Skills: :

- 1 - Think systematically and construct logical arguments.
2 - Allow to effectively coordinate with others in a discussion.

Course Topic And Contents :

Topic	No. of hours	Lecture	Tutorial / Practical
Introductory Lecture and Course Outline	3	1	
The Discovery of Petroleum in the Middle East	3	1	
Petroleum, Wars and Crises: World War II, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1979	3	1	
The invasion of Kuwait in 1991 and the invasion of Iraq in 2003	6	2	
The Great Power Competition for Energy Resources: Russia, China and India	3	1	
Midterm Exam		1	
The Politics of OPEC	6	2	
Egypt, Israel and Energy Competition	3	1	
Alternative Energy Technology (part 1)	3	1	
Alternative Energy Technology (part 2)	6	2	
Sustainable Development, Social Justice and Energy Resources	3	1	
Final Exam		1	

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

Demonstration videos
Presentation
Simulations
Debates
Group discussion
Research Paper

Course Assessment :

Methods of assessment	Relative weight %	Week No	Assess What
Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper...)	30.00		To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills.
Final Exam	40.00	15	To assess knowledge and intellectual skills.
Midterm Exam (s)	30.00	7	To assess professional skills.

Recommended books :

Benjamin K. Sovacool, Roman V. Sidortsov and Benjamin R. Jones, Energy Security, Equality and Justice, Routledge, 2013.