
PARIS AGREEMENT & RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY DESIGN in Fall 2019 (PO5002A)

Course Code	PO5002A	Professor(s)	Craig Brown
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule		Office Hours	
Credits	2	Email	cbrown@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	+1.917.724.5611

Course Description

This module course will introduce students to the Paris Agreement and the steps being taken by governments to decarbonize and transition their national energy systems. Students will analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Paris Agreement as compared to other international climate treaties and understand how the agreement translates to national energy policies. The course will also acquaint students with current renewable energy technologies, energy market fundamentals and research methodologies.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

Course Outline

DAY 1: Wednesday, October 9 (3:20 – 9:45 pm)

Learning Objectives: Energy markets, climate agreements, data sources and research methodologies

Agenda:

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1. Opening conversation on energy trends | in-class group research assignment (3:20 - 4:30)
 2. Lecture: global energy markets and technologies – global trends data (4:30 – 5:30)
 3. Break 1 (5:30 – 5:45)
 4. In-class reading and group discussion (6:00-7:00)
 5. Dinner Break (7-7:45)
 6. Climate agreements: Kyoto Protocol to Paris Agreement (7:45 – 9:00)
 7. Discussion of in-class group assignment and group formation (9:00 -9:45)

Written HW assignment (due Friday before class - 5 pts toward participation grade) - What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Paris Agreement as it is currently structured? Contrast it with the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. State your opinion on whether you think the Paris Agreement will be successful.

DAY 2: Friday, October 11 (3:20 – 9:45 pm)

Learning Objectives: Power market fundamentals, policy design, emerging markets

Agenda:

1. HW Question Review: Climate Treaty Mechanisms
2. Lecture: Energy policy and policy mechanisms (3 pm – 4 pm)
3. SE Asia Markets: Guest speaker – TBD (4 – 5 pm)
4. Break 1 (5:00 – 5:15)
5. Africa Markets: Guest speaker – TBD (5:30 – 6:30)
6. Group project work: Market research / data collection (6:30 – 9:45)

DAY 3: Saturday, October 12 (10:00 – 6:00 pm)

Learning Objectives: Power market fundamentals, policy design, emerging markets

Agenda:

1. Review of energy policy basics: targets, policy mechanisms (10:00 – 10:30)
2. Competing low and no-carbon energy sources: Natural gas, nuclear energy, CCS (10:30 – 11:45)
3. Group work on Market Report Presentation (12:00 – 3:30)
4. Presentations (3:30 – 5:30)
5. Class Closing conversation (5:30 – 6:00)

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION

Assignment:

The in-class presentation will consist of a 15-20 minute presentation analyzing the energy market of each group's choosing. The students will be presenting information to the instructor and their peers to explain the following market features:

- Basic features (population, economy size, location, government, etc.)
- What is the country's Nationally Defined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement?
- Has the government set nationally defined Renewable Energy Targets?
- What is the current power generation mix of the country? Use data and cite your sources.
- Explain the market structure:
 - Overview the renewable energy generation that currently exists (technology / capacity)
 - What is the largest renewable power generation project in the country?
 - What are the current policy mechanisms in place?
 - Other initiatives government is taking to decarbonize the economy? (energy efficiency, transport, etc.)
- Offer the following analysis:
 - Are the current policy support mechanisms sufficient? Effective? Discuss your assessment.

Homework Questions: (5 points each)

Due October 27 via email s.craigb@gmail.com

Minimum 2 paragraph responses for each question.

1. What is the major difference between the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol?

What is the major risk(s) of the Paris Agreement, as it is currently structured, and the implications?

2. Why have policy makers placed an emphasis on decarbonizing the power generation sector as the primary pathway to meet GHG reduction targets? Describe other promising areas of policy focus to reduce GHG reductions.
3. From the readings, describe Vaclav Smil's concept of Power Density. How has it impacted energy transitions throughout history? What are its implications for renewable energy sources?
4. Define, both in your words and citing sources from the readings, an energy transition. Are we currently in the midst of an energy transition with renewable energy? Support your assessment.
5. For domestic policy makers, what is the biggest trade-off when designing renewable

energy policy? How might this impact global commitments and the Paris Agreement? (Hint: see Keohane and Victor article Cooperation and Discord)

6. Explain in detail why Keohane and Victor opine that “climate change politics, as it is currently structured, is not conducive to much cooperation.” What would strengthen multi-lateral climate cooperation? (Reference reading Keohane and Victor: Cooperation and Discord)
7. Given today’s commercially available technology, what is the major problem with decentralized power generation? What would need to be done in order to make decentralized power a viable option in major cities and demand centers?

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students’ participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the graduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

- Class Participation and class homework = 15%
- Homework Questions = 35%
- In Class Presentation = 50%

Other
