

Phasing Down or Phasing Out? Challenges for a Global Energy Transition in a Fossil World



SYLLABUS

VU AMSTERDAM SUMMER SCHOOL

JULY 2023

Phasing Down or Phasing Out? Challenges for a Global Energy Transition in a Fossil World

COURSE PROGRAMME 2023

Course Organiser: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)

Date of course: Monday 3 July to Friday 14 July 2022

ECTS credits: 3 credits

Contact hours: 45

Course coordinators

- Dr Stephan Slingerland
- Ana Cassanti, MSc

Course lecturers and key features

- The course will be given by experienced lecturers from VU Amsterdam, TU Twente as well as speakers from key energy and climate sector stakeholders in the Netherlands;
- Excursions to Shell, Friends of the Earth Netherlands and Citizen Energy Community Zuiderlicht;
- Ample time for discussion of key energy transition issues and for sharpening your own opinions.

Contact info

- For issues regarding course content: s.slingerland@vu.nl, tel +31 6 1035 8795
- For general issues and administration regarding the summer school: amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl, tel +31 20 59 84717

Course description

Do we need to phase down or to phase out fossil fuels? The COP Climate Conference in Glasgow in 2021 demonstrated once again that a successful energy transition to meet the Paris climate goals is far from a done deal. While the need for a global transition to a low-carbon energy sector is contested by few, opinions on what this means in practice and on how to get there vary widely.

This course will focus on the societal and political side of energy transition, but also introduce you to physical and technical limitations of the energy system and to global boundaries. It will give you a broad overview of global energy transition needs, the key societal dilemmas and possible solutions. It will challenge you to discover your own preferred solutions – as well as their main pros and cons. The course will further introduce you to the leading theories, concepts, proposed solutions and current governance efforts in the energy transition. Global solutions will be studied as well as national and local approaches in the Netherlands.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will:

- Understand the main concepts and theories in energy transition and be able to put them into the wider context of global sustainable development;
- Know what has been achieved on the road to energy transition so far;
- Have an overview of the greatest challenges and proposed solutions for the future of the energy transition;
- Have gained a clear insight into their own preferred solutions for the energy transition and the main pros and cons of these solutions.
- Gain insights on how the energy transition depends on different contexts and interests (e.g. countries/groups of people/etc.)

Assignments

The work load is designed to reflect 3 ECTS points, including three assessments:

- Active participation in the course;
- An oral group presentation at the end of the course;
- A short individual written essay of 1000 words;

Grading

- Participation: 20 %
- Presentation: 30 %
- Written essay: 50 %

Excursions

- Visit Energy Community Zuiderlicht
- Visit Shell laboratory Amsterdam (to be confirmed)
- Visit Friends of the Earth Netherlands / Milieudefensie

PROGRAMME - Week 1 (3 – 7 July)

Final modifications to the schedule and speakers may happen due to confirmation of the programme.

Day	Hours	Teacher / Moderator	Class number, subject
Monday (3/7)	9:00 – 10:00	VU Summer School	VU Campus tour
	10:00– 12:00	Slingerland / Cassanti	1. Introduction; the energy transition challenge
	13:00 – 15:00	Slingerland	2. Interests and views behind energy transition
	Afternoon	VU Summer School	Introduction meeting / Pub-Quiz
Tuesday (4/7)	9:00 – 10:30	Blasch / Cassanti	3. The economics of energy transition – changing investments & user behaviour (<i>online</i>)
	10:45 – 12:00	Cassanti	4. Role of stakeholders in the energy transition – a perspective through the lens of intersectionality

	13:00 – 15:00	Van Bezeij / Cassanti	5. EXCURSION 1; Energy Community Zuiderlicht, Amsterdam
Wednesday (5/7)	9:00 - 10:30	Gupta / Slingerland/ Cassanti	6. Climate justice, phasing out fossil fuels, and stranded assets
	10:45 – 12:15	van Geuns / Cassanti	7. The geopolitics of fossil fuels and renewables
	Afternoon	VU Summer School	Social Programme
Thursday (6/7)	9:00 – 10:30	Blondeel/ Cassanti	Global south and fossil fuels
	10:45 – 12:00	Cassanti	Debate about fossil fuels
	13:00 – 15:00	Scheepers/ Cassanti	8. Technological solutions and integrated energy systems for energy transition – an overview
Friday (7/7)	9:00 – 12:30	Klusener/ Slingerland	9. EXCURSION 2; Shell Amsterdam (TO BE CONFIRMED)
	13:00 – 15:00	Slingerland	10. Tour De Ceuvel Sustainability hub and informal drinks

PROGRAMME - Week 2 (10 – 14 July)

Final modifications to the schedule and speakers may happen due to confirmation of the programme.

Day	Hours	Teacher / Moderator	Class number, subject
Monday (10/7)	10:00 – 12:00	Picchi / Cassanti	11. The spatial turn in energy transition - Key definitions & methods
	13:00 – 15:00	Chandna / Cassanti	12. Energy transition and spatial planning / Energy Game
Tuesday (11/7)	10:00 – 12:00	Menkveld / Slingerland	13. Dutch national climate and energy politics in an international context
	13:00 – 15:00	Straver / Slingerland	14. Energy Poverty
Wednesday (12/7)	10:00 – 12:00	Arendt / Cassanti	16. Measuring the impacts of energy systems
	Afternoon	VU Summer School	Social Programme

Thursday (13/7)	10:00 – 12:00	Van Oosterhout / Cassanti	17. EXCURSION 3 – Milieudéfense / Friends of the Earth, Amsterdam
	13:00 – 14:30	Open	18. Free for studying/prepare for presentations
Friday (14/7)	9:30 – 12:00	Slingerland / Cassanti	19. Student presentations
	13:00 – 13:30	Slingerland / Cassanti	20. Wrap-up
	Afternoon	VU Summer School	Farewell drinks

