5.1 - Energy

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Prof. Jack Reilly

S2026

Think:

- *How do we manage the massive energy demands of AI?*

Read:

- Chen, 2025. "How much energy will AI really consume? The good, the bad, and the unknown" *Nature*
- Stover, 2024. "AI goes nuclear" *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*

Browse:

- Ars Technica, "Can we make AI less power-hungry? These researchers are working on it."
- The Economist, "How safe is nuclear energy?"
- Mandler, 2024. "Three Mile Island nuclear plant will reopen to power Microsoft data centers"
- Erdenesanaa, 2024. "A.I. Could Soon Need as Much Electricity as an Entire Country" *NYTimes*
- Goldman Sachs, "Is nuclear energy the answer to AI data centers' power consumption?"
- Bacquero, "The Energy Footprint of Humans and Large Language Models"

Additional Resources:

- Crawford, 2022. *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence.* Yale.

Submit:

- Discussion question to course chat

Tip

- “ Read”, “ Listen”, and/or “ Watch” items are required content for the day, and should be read/heard/watched before class on that day.
- “ Browse” items should be briefly looked at but do not need to be read deeply unless you want to
- “ Additional Resources” do not need to be looked at; they are there to serve, if useful, as further references for your debates, final projects, and general edification later.