

**Natural Resource and World Politics, POSC 371/471**  
**MW 12:30-1:45pm**

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This course examines a central concern of developing countries today: to what extent do natural resources shape political and social dynamics? Are natural resources a curse? On the one hand, exploitation of resources is associated with bad governance, civil strife, and general underdevelopment. Therefore, some conclude that easy money is bad for you. On the other hand, a number of countries have successfully exploited their own natural resources while still achieving productive economic growth and stable governance. Consequently, some conclude that resources are not important as believed. Making sense of these competing claims is a primary task of the course. Thematically we will analyze debates about how resources affect economic development (the curse), how resources interact with regime type (democracy versus authoritarianism), how resources may influence violent conflict (capturing, smuggling, and selling), how oil firms have influenced global politics (the history of oil exploration), and whether pursuit of resources determine a country's foreign policy (war for oil?). Cases studies will include North and South America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. In addition to shorter assignments, a course research paper will be required.

Requirements:

This is a seminar course dependent upon student participation. It is emphatically not a lecture based course. Please bring copies of the readings to class each week (beginning week 3 until week 14). To facilitate participation, each student will write a 1 page "**reaction paper**" to that week's readings. The point of these papers is NOT TO SUMMARIZE the readings but raise a question or discussion point to think about. **Papers are due by each Monday 9am** and should be up loaded to the appropriate forum on the Blackboard classroom site.

There will be two **short, in-class exams**, week 10 and 14.

**The principle writing assignment for the class is a 10-15 paper which will focus on one country.** We will meet to discuss your paper. The country based paper will be focused on some resource dependent or exporting country and explore some theory or question from the semester to that case. **A 3 page outline and bibliography for your paper is due during Week 8.** During the final two weeks, all students will present (5-7 minutes) their main findings to the class.

### Grading and responsibilities

Reaction papers	30%
Short exam (2X)	30%
Final Paper and Presentation	40%

### Required Texts

Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso)

Daniel Yergin, *The Prize* (2008)

### Themes and Readings

#### **Week 1 Political Economy: Markets, States, and Societies I**

8/25-27 Charles E. Lindblom, 1982. "The Market as Prison," *Journal of Politics* 44:2 (May), pp. 324-336

#### **Week 2 Political Economy: Markets, States, and Societies II**

9/1 **LABOR DAY**

9/3 Timothy Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*, (London: Verso, 2011), pp. 1-42

(interview Mitchell) <http://www.antinwoalliance.com/carbon-democracy-by-timothy-mitchell-interview/>

#### **Week 3 The Modern Oil Industry: It all started in Cleveland...**

9/8-10 Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*, Chapters 1-5

#### **Week 4 Oil Industry Politics and History II**

9/15-17 Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*, Chapters 6-15

- Week 5      The International Oil Market**
- 9/22-24      IEA, "Oil Supply Security" (contrast with Adelman approach)
- Robert Adelman, "The Real Oil Problem," *Regulation*, Spring 2004
- Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), Forward and pp.1-26
- Week 6      ARAMCO and American Exceptionalism**
- 9/29-10/1     Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), pp. 27-120
- Week 7:      The Saudi-American Oil Camp**
- 10/6-8        Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), pp., 121-264 and Afterword
- Week 8      Resources and War Economies (Course paper precise due)**
- 10/13-15     Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, 2002. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War," *World Bank Occasional Paper*. (skim and focus on the main findings)
- Mary Kaldor et. al, 2007. "Introduction: Oil Wars," in *Oil Wars*, edited by Mary Kaldor, Terry Lynn Karl and Yahia Said (Pluto Press)
- Philip Le Billon, "The political ecology of war: natural resources and armed conflict," *Political Geography* (2001)
- Pete Moore and Christopher Parker, "The War Economy of Iraq" *Middle East Report* and, Moore, "Making Big Money on Iraq," *Middle East Report*
- Week 9      Film**
- 10/20-22     *The Ambassador*
- Week 10     Midterm Week**
- 10/27        **Spring Break**
- 10/29        **Short exam (in class)**

**Week 11 Resources and the Global Order**

11/3-5 Timothy Mitchell, 2009. "McJihad: Islam and the US Global Order," *Social Text*, 73;4 (Winter 2002), pp. 1-18

Toby Jones, "America, Oil, and War in the Middle East," *The Journal of American History*, June 2012.

Roger Stern, "United States costs of force projection in the Persian gulf, 1976-2007" *Energy Policy* (2010)

**Week 12 Resource Curses: Political and Economic Development**

11/10-12 Michael Ross, 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 no.3, pp.325-361

Ellis Goldberg, Erik Wibbels, and Eric Mvukiyehe, 2008. "Lessons from Strange Cases: Democracy, Development, and the Resource Curse in the U.S. States," *Comparative Political Studies*, 41, 4/5 (April/May), pp. 477-514.

**Week 13 Critiquing the Curse Arguments**

11/17-19 Marcus Kurtz, 2009. "The Social Foundations of Institutional Order: Reconsidering War and the 'Resource Curse' in Third World State Building," *Politics and Society* 37 (4), pp. 479-520.

Timothy Mitchell, 2009. "Carbon Democracy," *Economy and Society*, 38:3 (August).

Stephen Hertog 2010, "Defying the Resource Curse: Explaining Successful State-owned Enterprises in Rentier States," *World Politics*, 62:2 (April).

**Week 14**

11/24 **NO CLASS**

11/26 **Short exam (in class)**

**Week 15 Paper Presentation Week**

12/1-3