

## **Natural Resource and World Politics, POSC 371/471**

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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 2 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.

In addition, **twice during the course each student will write a 5 page paper** discussing a group of readings (at least 3) from a specific week. What are the questions or events discussed by readings from that week? How do they fit with larger class themes or theories examined? What are the authors' arguments and what evidence do they bring to bear? **A hard copy of that paper is required in class on Friday.** These papers will be assigned during the first week of class.

**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 weeks 14 and 15 all students will present (5-7 minutes) their main findings to the class.

### Grading and responsibilities

Participation/reaction papers	25%
Five page paper (2x)	20%
Final Paper and Presentation	55%

### Required Texts

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

Michael Klare, *Blood and Oil: The Dangers and Consequences of America's Growing Petroleum Dependency*

### Themes and Readings

**\*\*READINGS CAN BE FOUND ON LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESERVE OR AS NOTED ON OUR COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE\*\***

#### **Week 1 Oil Industry Politics and History I: The Five Sisters and Imperialism**

1/10, 12, 14

Francisco Parra *Oil Politics: A Modern History of Petroleum* (IB Tauris, 2004), pp. 6-54 (On blackboard site)

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

#### **Week 2 Oil Industry Politics and History II: ARAMCO and American Exceptionalism**

**1/17 Martin Luther King Day**

1/19, 21

Francisco Parra *Oil Politics: A Modern History of Petroleum* (IB Tauris, 2004), pp. 89-145 (On blackboard site)

Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), Forward and pp.1-26

**Week 3      The American Oil Camp**

1/24, 26

Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), pp.27-120.

1/28      TBA

**Week 4      America's Kingdom**

1-31, 2/2, 4

Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), pp., 121-264 and Afterword

**Week 5      Debates I: Resource Curses and Economic Development**

2/7, 9

Peter Evans and John D. Stephens, 1988. "Studying development since the sixties: The emergence of a new comparative political economy," *Theory and Society*, 17.

Jeffrey D. Sachs and Andrew Warner, 2001. "The curse of natural resources," *European Economic Review* 45.

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

**2/11      NO CLASS**

**Week 6      Debates II: Resource Curses and Political Development**

2/14, 16, 18

Thomas Friedman, 2006. "The First Law of Petro Politics," *Foreign Policy* (April)

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

Jill Crystal, 1988. "Coalitions in Oil Monarchies: Kuwait and Qatar," *Comparative Politics* 21:4 (July).

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 7: Debates III: Push Backs and Critiques of the Curses**

2/21, 23, 25

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

Michael Herb, 2005. “No Taxation without Representation? Rents, Development, and Democracy,” *Comparative Politics* 37:3 (April).

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.

**Week 8: Debates IV: Regional Variations, Africa and the Middle East**

2/28, 3/2, 4

Gwen Okruhlik, 1999. “Rentier wealth, unruly law, and the rise of opposition: The political economy of rentier states,” *Comparative Politics*, 31.

Benjamin Smith, 2004. Oil Wealth and Regime Survival in the Developing World, 1960-1999,” *American Journal of Political Science*, 48:2 (April).

Nathan Jensen and Leonard Wantchekon, 2004. “Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa,” *Comparative Political Studies* 37:7 (September), pp. 816-841.

Mahmood Mamdani, 2001. “Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism,” *Comparative Studies of Society and History*.

**Week 9 Spring Break 3/7-3/11**

**Week 10 Oil and (American) Wars**

3/14, 16

Mary Kaldor et. al, 2007. "Introduction: Oil Wars," in *Oil Wars*, edited by Mary Kaldor, Terry Lynn Karl and Yahia Said (Pluto Press) (On blackboard site)

Michael Klare, *Blood and Oil: The Dangers and Consequences of America's Growing Petroleum Dependency*, chapters 1-3

**3/18 NO CLASS**

**Week 11 Oil and War: Invading Iraq for Oil?**

3/21, 23, 25

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

Michael Klare, *Blood and Oil: The Dangers and Consequences of America's Growing Petroleum Dependency*, chapters 4, 5, and 7.

F. Gregory Gause, III, 2010. *The International Relations of the Persian Gulf* Cambridge University Press, pp.184-240 (On blackboard site)

**Week 12 Natural Resources and Sub-state War**

4/4, 6, 8

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, 2002. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War," *World Bank Occasional Paper*.

James D. Fearon, 2005. "Primary Commodity Exports and Civil War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:4 (August).

Richard Snyder, 2006. "Does Lootable Wealth Breed Disorder? A Political Economy of Extractions Framework," *Comparative Political Studies* 39:8 (October).

**Week 13 Resources and War Economies in Africa and the Middle East**

4/11, 13, 15

Mary Kaldor, 2007. "The Globalized War Economy," in *New and Old Wars* (Stanford University Press), pp. 95-118. (On blackboard site)

William Reno, 2001. "Clandestine Economies, Violence and States in Africa," *Journal of International Affairs*, 53:2 (Spring).

Elizabeth Picard, 2000. "The Political Economy of Civil War in Lebanon," in *War, Institutions, and Social Change in the Middle East*, edited by Steven Heydemann, (University of California Press).

Philippe Le Billon, 2007. "Drilling in deep water: oil, business, and war in Angola," in *Oil Wars*, edited by Mary Kaldor, Terry Lynn Karl and Yahia Said (Pluto Press, 2007)

Yahia Said, 2007. Greed and Grievance in Chechnya," in *Oil Wars*, edited by Mary Kaldor, Terry Lynn Karl and Yahia Said (Pluto Press, 2007)

Pete Moore and Christopher Parker, "The War Economy of Iraq" *Middle East Report* and, Moore, "Making Big Money on Iraq," *Middle East Report*

**Week 14 Paper Presentations**

4/18, 20, 22

**Week 15**

4/25 Last Class