

Natural Resource and World Politics, POSC 371/471
MW 12:45-2:00pm

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This course examines a central concern of socio-economic development: 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. This course will begin by historically and politically unpacking the evolution of the global oil industry. The focus this semester will be on the relationship between flag (states) and commerce (profits from resources). It will range from Cleveland to Saudi Arabia. A second theme will investigate the interaction between control of resources and violent conflict. Cotton, minerals, and other resources have historically been linked to violent conflict. What is this relationship? Finally, we will examine debates about how resource dependence shapes the fate of democracy.

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 on **in-class exam** week 9.

The principle assignment for the semester is a research paper (20 pages minimum) which can focus on one country or one case. We will meet to discuss your paper. **A 3 page outline and bibliography for your paper is due 10/14.** During the last week of the semester, each student will present (5-7 minutes) their main findings to the class.

Grading and responsibilities

Reaction papers	15%
Individual Class Presentation	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Paper and Presentation	40%

Required Texts

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

Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History* (Vintage Books, 2014)

Themes and Readings

Week 1 Introduction: Markets, States, and Societies

8/29 Charles E. Lindblom, 1982. "The Market as Prison," *Journal of Politics* 44:2 (May), pp. 324-336

8/31 *No Class*

Please read in preparation for next week: Timothy Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*, (London: Verso, 2011), pp. 1-42, skim the Introduction focus on Chapter 1

Week 2 The Global Oil Market

9/5 *LABOR DAY*

9/7 Watch short "Interview with Mitchell"

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

9/12-14 Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*, Chapters 1-5

Francisco Parra, *Oil Politics*, pp. 6-54

Week 4 Oil Industry Politics and History

9/19-21 Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*, Chapters 9-10

Francisco Parra, *Oil Politics*, pp. 89-145 (focus on chapter 5)

IEA, "Oil Supply Security" (skim and contrast with Adelman/Jones approach)

Toby Jones, "Energy Security: Genealogy of a Term," *Middle East Report*, Summer 2014

Robert Adelman, "The Real Oil Problem," *Regulation*, Spring 2004

John McPhee, "Coal Train," in *Uncommon Carriers*

Week 5 From Cleveland to Saudi Arabia: America's Colony

9/26-28 Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), Forward and pp.1-125

Week 6 ARAMCO and American Exceptionalism

10/3-5 Robert Vitalis 2009, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (New York: Verso), pp. 127-227, (skim 228-264) pp. 265-275

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* (skim)

Week 7: Resources and Conflict

10/10-12 *Film: The Ambassador*

10/14 Research Paper Precis Due

Week 8 Resources and Conflict: Africa and the Middle East

10/17-19 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)

Jeannie Sowers, "Water, Energy and Human Insecurity in the Middle East," *Middle East Report*, Summer 2014

Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Native and Settler as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism" *Society for Comparative of Society and History* (2001)

Week 9 Break and Exam

10/24 *Fall Break*

10/26 *Exam*

Week 10 Resource Imperialism

10/31-11/2 Patrick Wolfe, History and Imperialism: A Century of Theory," *American Historical Review* (April 1997)

Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*, Introduction and Chapters, 1 and 2

Week 11 Cotton, Slavery, and Profits

11/7-9 Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment"

Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*, Chapters 3-11

Week 12 Global Cotton Today

11/14-16 Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*, Introduction and Chapters 12-14

Week 13 Resource Curses: Resources and Democracy

11/21-23 Michael Ross, 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 no.3, pp.325-361

Ellis Goldberg, Erik Wibbels, and Eric Mvukiyeye, 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 14 Critiquing the Curse Arguments

11/28-30 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 15 Paper Presentation Week

1/30-12/2