

## **POLS 363: POLITICS OF OIL**

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Office Hours; MW 1:30-2:30, R 4:00-5:30 pm, and by appointment  
Spring 2008

Ford Hall 207  
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3 credit hours

For the past century oil has been integral to the growth and development of the world economy, and a key to American prosperity. Control of oil supplies has been a critical factor in international relations, and is closely tied to military conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Oil dependency constrains the foreign policy options of even the most powerful nations. Major oil companies are presumed to have considerable influence on the policies of many countries, including the United States. And oil wealth generated by some of America's closest allies in the Persian Gulf has been used to fund terrorist organizations.

This course examines the linkages between oil and politics, using a broad, cross-national approach. We will look at the relationship between oil and politics for some of the major oil exporters, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Canada, Venezuela, Kazakhstan and Nigeria, and major importers such as the United States, Europe, China and Japan. We will discuss the role of oil in major international conflicts—including the Gulf wars—and its impact on internal conflicts such as those in Sudan and Nigeria. We will discuss the “resource curse”—how oil wealth hinders both development and democracy, and we will seek to understand why. We will examine how energy impacts the national security of the United States and our allies, and what alternatives to oil are realistically available.

### **What You Should Acquire in this Course**

1. You should acquire an understanding of the world's oil economy and its political regime; that is, the constellation of political forces among oil producers and consumers.
2. You should acquire an understanding of how the need to secure oil supplies has influenced the political behavior of countries, and how resource dependency constrains options.
3. You should acquire an understanding of how resource abundance can impact economic and political development, often in unintended ways.
4. You should acquire an understanding of the role that oil as a vital resource plays in military conflicts, both within countries and internationally.
5. You should acquire an understanding of the influence of oil companies on global economics and politics.

Understanding of the relationship between oil and politics will be assessed through classroom discussion, written exams, and a major research paper. One important criterion for successful completion of the research paper assignment is the ability to use diverse sources of information in a critical and objective manner.

### **Course Requirements:**

Participation, meaning regular attendance and participation in classroom discussion, is required and is worth 10 percent of your grade. Demand for this class was very high, and you have a responsibility to attend and participate. You must let me know ahead of time if you have to miss a class.

Early in the semester we will have the first exam, which will count for 20 percent of your grade. We'll vote on whether it will be in-class or take-home.

Each of you will write a 15-17 page research paper on some aspect of oil and politics, based on your personal interests and decided in consultation with myself (but it **MUST** be a political science paper). This will be worth 40 percent of your grade, and must be completed satisfactorily in order to pass the course. And you will help your fellow students by critiquing two of their papers--this assignment will be worth 10 percent. I will also critique your first drafts. The second exam will be take-home, and is worth 20 percent of your grade.

Summary of Requirements:

Participation:	10% (100 points)
First Exam	20% (200 points)
Paper critiques	10% (100 points)
Research Paper	40% (400 points)
Second Exam	20% (200 points)
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Total:	100% (1000 points)

Grades will be calculated as follows:	900-1000 points:	A
	800-899 points:	B
	700-799 points:	C
	600-699 points:	D
	0-599 points:	F

**We won't use the +/- system in this class. I will follow these criteria in grading written work:**

**A** Excellent work. Analytical, clearly written, well-organized, thoughtful, insightful. Virtually no room for improvement. Complete, standardized references.

**B** Good work. Covers the major analytical points, well-written, shows good effort, but could use more insight and better organization and clarity. Good, standardized references, but missing some important ones.

**C** Average work, demonstrates only modest effort. More descriptive than analytical, many obscure passages, not very well organized, some grammatical mistakes. References are incomplete.

**D** Substandard, only marginally acceptable. Virtually no analytical perspective, completely descriptive, poorly organized, frequent grammatical mistakes and awkward constructions. Few or incomplete references indicate hasty (lazy) preparation.

**F** Too awful for words.

Required Materials

1. Jan H. Kalicki and David L. Goldwyn, *Energy & Security: Toward a New Foreign Policy Strategy* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005)

2. Ian Rutledge, *Addicted to Oil: America's Relentless Drive for Energy Security* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2006).

3. Blackboard website. Each student must use Blackboard on a regular basis. You are responsible for announcements, assignments, and other resources posted on Blackboard.

Recommended: Daniel Yergin, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991). Great history, won the Pulitzer prize.

### **Academic Honesty**

You should know your rights and responsibilities as enumerated in the University of Louisville Undergraduate Catalog. Obviously you should not plagiarize or cheat in any way. At a minimum this will mean failing the course; it could result in dismissal from the University. Know what plagiarism is, and avoid it at all costs!

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS**

### **I. Oil and Politics: Introduction** (January 7, 9, 11)

--Rutledge, pp. xi-xxiii.

--Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 1-16

### **II. America and Oil in the Modern Age** (January 14, 16, 18)

--Rutledge, pp. 1-50.

### **January 21: Martin Luther King Day—No Class.**

### **III. Oil Interests and American Politics** (January 23, 25)

--Rutledge, pp. 51-79.

### **IV. The Global Energy Framework** (January 28, 30, February 1, 4)

--Siemenski, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 21-50

--Yergin, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp.51-64

--Morse & Jaffe, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 65-95

--Martin & Harje, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 97-116

--Silva-Calderon, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 117-122

### **First Exam: Friday February 6, 2008.**

### **V. The Western Hemisphere and North Atlantic** (February 8, 11, 13)

--Rutledge, pp. 80-101

--Olsen, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 337-355.

--Neff, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 357-375.

--Kuenzler, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 377-398.

--Foss, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 399-406.

### **VI. Oil, Conflict and Diplomacy in the Middle East & Africa** (February 15, 18, 20)

--West, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 197-218.

--Shearer, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 219-240

--Hueper, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 241-257.

--Al-Attayah, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 259-261.

### **VII. Russia, Eurasia, and the Caspian** (February 22, 25, 27, 29)

--Rutledge, pp. 102-119

--Nanay, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 127-147.

--Kalicki & Elkind, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 149-174.

--de Palacio, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 175-190.

--Kaluzhny, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 191-194.

**VIII. The Asia-Pacific** (February March 3, 5, 7)

- Jaffe & Medlock, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 267-289.
- Ryan, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 291-304
- Yokobori, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 305-328.
- Johnson, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 329-332.

**SPRING BREAK**, March 10-16

--**RESEARCH PAPERS** due for distribution to class Wednesday March 19, 3 copies. **Late papers will not be accepted—you will simply lose 100 points.**

**IX. Democracy, Corruption, & Oil** (March 17, 19, 21, 24)

- Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics*, Vol.53 (2001), on Blackboard
- Shaxson, "Oil, Corruption, and the Resource Curse," *International Affairs*, Vol. 83 (2007), on Blackboard.
- Rutledge, pp. 120-132.
- McPherson, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 461-484.

--**CRITIQUES OF RESEARCH PAPERS** due Wednesday March 26

**X. Energy and National Security** (March 26, 28, 31, April 2, 4)

- Fuerth, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 411-424.
- Kenderdine & Moniz, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 425-459.
- Rutledge, pp. 133-177.

**SECOND EXAM (20%) Distributed Friday April 11, Due Monday April 21**

**XI. Environment, Strategic Reserves, & Natural Gas** (April 7, 9, 11, 14)

- Baumert, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 485-508.
- Goldwyn & Billig, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 509-529.
- Juckett & Foss, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 531-552.
- Holdren, in Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 553-559.

**XII. The Future of Oil in the World Energy Balance** (April 16, 18, 21)

- Kalicki & Goldwyn, pp. 561-578.
- Rutledge, pp. 178-201.

**RESEARCH PAPERS (40%). Final draft due Friday April 25, 12:00 noon.**