

**Western University**  
**Department of History, Winter 2014**  
**HISTORY 2797G Profit, Power and Conflict: A Global History of Oil**  
**Time: Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 PM and Thursdays 4:30-5:30 PM**  
**Class Location: UC289**  
**Office Location and Hours: 2250 Lawson Hall, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 PM-3 PM**

In the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century oil became a critical source of energy for industrialized and industrializing nations in war and in peace. Without doubt, for almost a century, human civilization has been prominently a “Petro-Civilization.” The present course is a broad survey of the geopolitical, commercial, techno-cultural, and environmental history of oil over the past 150 years. It offers a chronologically ordered and thematically structured study of a host of political, socio-cultural, and commercial developments whose main driving force has been oil. Students will examine the transformation of oil from a basic lighting fuel used for ‘oil lamps’ to an energy source that fuelled military vessels and vehicles to the point that it has dramatically transformed and revolutionized the welfare and warfare of modern human civilization. From the Nazi quest for reliable energy sources to the Cold War rivalries between the US and the Soviet Union, students will investigate various aspects of the international relations history of oil in conjunction with the globalization of this commodity’s use by multinational corporations. Students will engage with questions such as how the technological and commercial breakthroughs made possible by oil led to a consumerist revolution in the West, which has transformed global capitalism. Students will study how “Big Oil” played both a negative and a positive role in the modernization of major oil producing states. The course will also provide students with many opportunities to revisit concepts such as superpower imperialism, multinational corporations, consumerism and globalization through oil in their historical context.

### **Requirements**

- Students are not expected to have a background in the history of any specific part of the world and/or the covered themes.
- Three hours of weekly lectures, held as a separate one-hour and two-hour session.
- Mandatory and recommended readings as identified in the outline available through OWL + Daniel Yergin, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*, NY, London: Free Press, 2008.

### **Evaluation**

- **Attendance and Participation 10%**
- **Presentation 15%: A 4 page critical summary, no more than 500 words, of one of the assigned mandatory or recommended readings**  
  
*Please kindly note that students cannot choose Yergin’s book chapters for presentation purposes.*
- **7 Page Take-Home Mid-Term Assignment 20%: Due 4 Feb. in class**
- **1,500 word Research Essay 25%: Due 1 April**
- **Two and a Half Hours Final exam 30%: To be held during the exam period as determined by the University Registrar at the end of the 2013-2014 academic Year. The final exam will have three sections: Geopolitics and Warfare, Business and Environment. Each section will have four optional questions. Students must write a short essay in response to one question of their choosing from each section.**

### Learning outcomes and transferrable skills

By the end of this course the students will have developed the following learning objectives and transferrable skills:

1. A firm foundational knowledge of the history of major multinational corporations, major world powers and their quest for oil, and major oil producing states
2. Specialized knowledge on international relations, business, and socio-cultural history of oil and the oil-based/powered modern revolutions in transportation and agriculture that have led to cultures and conveniences such as suburban communities, air travel and plastic based consumer products
3. Critical skills by applying oil as a conceptual framework to various socio-political, diplomatic, entrepreneurial, social, cultural, and military dynamics that have shaped modern post-industrial world.
4. Foundational skills assess declassified governmental archives and the relationship between global oil enterprise,
5. Basic analytical knowledge useful for future professional pursuits in fields such as foreign policy, military policy and history, law, global digital media and journalism, international business and investment risk assessment and environmental studies.

### Course Structure and Organization

The course is organized as follows. In the first part of the semester students become familiar with the general themes of the history of oil through a broad overview of its many social, commercial, cultural, technological and political aspects. The second part of semester will focus on the oil-dependent post-WWII technological revolutions that brought up socio-economic and cultural shifts and led to a geo-strategic transformation in the relationship between the major under-developed oil producing countries and the Western developed states. The course also surveys the new environmental and geostrategic aspects of the history of oil between WWII and the Second Gulf War (1991). The following is a detailed outline of the weekly sessions:

#### Detailed Outline: T: Tuesday; R: Thursday

Meeting 1 T. 7 Jan.	<p><b>Introduction. Imperialism, Multi-nationals and “Fossil-Fuelled Civilization”: From the 19th Century to Present and review of Fundamental Readings for the course</b></p> <p>Vaclav Smil, “Chapter 5: Fossil-Fuelled Civilization,” in <i>Energy in World History</i> (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1994), 157-200.</p> <p>Ray Kiely, “Chapter 1: Introduction- Imperialism: What’s in a name?” in <i>Rethinking Imperialism</i> (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 1-8.</p> <p>Geoffrey Jones, “Part 1. Frameworks,” and “Part 3: Exploiting Opportunities, Section 1. Natural Resources,” in <i>Multinationals and Global Capitalism from the Nineteenth to the Twenty-First Century</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 60-73.</p>
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#### Revisiting the Past to Understand Present

##### Topic 1. North American Discoveries, the Age of Colonial Empires and the First Multinationals

Meeting 2 R. 9 Jan.	<p><b>North American Discoveries: From Petrolia (Ontario) to Pennsylvanian Oil</b></p> <p>Read Yergin 3-39.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b></p> <p>Gary May, “Chapter Two: The First of Hard Oilers” in <i>Hard Oiler! The Story of Canadians' Quest for Oil at Home and Abroad</i> (Toronto, Oxford: Dundurn Press, 1998), 27-45.</p>
Meeting 3 T. 14 Jan.	<p><b>The Business of Oil: The Booming Beginnings</b></p> <p>Gary May, “Chapter Seven: This Business of Oil,” in <i>Hard Oiler! The Story of Canadians' Quest for Oil at Home and Abroad</i> (Toronto, Oxford: Dundurn Press, 1998), 107-117.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b></p> <p>Howard Means, “Chapter 7: John D. Rockefeller: Organizing the Octopus,” in <i>Money and Power: the History of Business,</i> (New York: John Wiley &amp; Sons Inc., 2001), 125-144.</p>

Meeting 4 R. 16 Jan.	<b>The Multinationals and Imperialism</b> Read Yergin 168-188, 263-286. <b>Recommended Reading</b> Marc Ferro, "Chapter 1: Colonization or Imperialism?" in <i>Colonization: A Global History</i> (London: Routledge, 1997) 1-23.
Meeting 5 T. 21 Jan.	<b>Concessions and Colonialism Mexico</b> Catherine E. Jayne, "Chapter 1: Setting the Stage: Early History of Oil in Mexico," in <i>Oil, War, and Anglo-American Relations: American and British Reactions to Mexico's Oil Expropriation of Foreign Oil Properties, 1937-1941</i> , (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2001), 11-23. <b>Recommended Reading: Canadian Hard Oilers in the Middle East (1908)</b> Gary May, "Chapter Eleven: The Persian Solution," in <i>Hard Oiler! The Story of Canadians' Quest for Oil at Home and Abroad</i> (Toronto, Oxford: Dundurn Press, 1998), 167-176

## Topic 2. Oil: Global Techno-Cultural Revolution 1880-1945

Meeting 6 R. 23 Jan.	<b>The Agricultural and Transportation Revolutions</b> Manfred Weissenbacher, "Chapter 31: Agriculture in the Oil Age," in <i>Sources of Power: How Energy forges Human History, Volume Two: The Oil Age and Beyond</i> (Santa Barbara, California: Praeger, 2009), 451-463. Rudi Volti, "Chapter Two: the Automobile's Adolescence, 1905-1914," in <i>Car and Culture</i> (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 21-42.
Meeting 7 T. 28 Jan.	<b>The Auto-Consumerist Revolution</b> Rudi Volti, "Chapter Three: From Battlefield to Boulevard, 1914-1929," in <i>Car and Culture</i> (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 43-65. <b>Recommended Reading</b> Regina Lee Blaszczyk, "Chapter Six: Designing the Automobile Age," in <i>American Consumer Society 1905-2005: From Hearth to HDTV</i> (Wheeling, Illinois: Harland Davidson Inc., 2009), 159-178.

## Topic 3. Profit, Power and Conflict 1914-1925

Meeting 8 R. 30 Jan.	<b>Middle East Oil and WWI: Anglo-Persian Oil Company Fuels British Imperial Warfare</b> Joe Stork, "Middle East Oil and the Energy Crisis: Part 1," <i>MERIP Reports</i> , No. 20, September 1973, 3-20, 26. Read Yergin 134-147. <b>Recommended Reading</b> R. W. Ferrier, "Chapter 5: Fuel Oil and the Admiralty," in <i>History of British Petroleum Oil Company</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982), 158-210.
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### Meeting 9 T. 4 Feb. Mid-Term

Meeting 10 R. 6 Feb.	<b>WWI: Royal Dutch Shell Enters the Stage</b> Joost Jonker and Jan Luiten van Zanden, "Chapter 3: Surviving the Crucible 1914-1919," in <i>From Challenger to Join Industry Leader, 1890-1939: A History of Royal Dutch Shell</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 150-196. <b>Recommended Reading</b> R. W. Ferrier, "Chapter 7: Persia: the Scene of Operations 1914-1918: 3(b) The Abadan refinery and the war effort," in <i>History of British Petroleum Oil Company</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982), 274-282
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## Topic 4. Inter-War Boom, Bust and the Second World War

Meeting 11 T. 11 Feb.	<b>Inter-War Challenges: Multinationals' Rivalries and Boom</b> Read Yergin 227-242. Anthony Cave Brown, "Chapter 1. The Setting and the Stage" in <i>Oil, God, and Gold: the Story of Aramco and the Saudi Kings</i> , Boston, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999, 9-34. <b>Recommended Reading</b> Anthony Cave Brown, "Chapter 2. Pax Aramco", in <i>Oil, God, and Gold: the Story of Aramco and the Saudi Kings</i> , Boston, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999, 35-56.
Meeting 12 R. 13 Feb.	<b>Inter-War Challenges: Multinationals' Rivalries, Bust and Oil Nationalism</b> Read Yergin 242-262.

	<p><b>Recommended Reading</b> Clayton R. Koppes, "The Good Neighbor Policy and the Nationalization of Mexican Oil: A Reinterpretation," <i>The Journal of American History</i>, Vol. 69, No. 1, June 1982, 62-81.</p>
Meeting 13 T. 25 Feb.	<p><b>World War II: The Axis Quest for Oil</b> Read Yergin 289-333.</p> <p>Ivan Eland, "Part I: A History of Oil and the Use of Military Power to Control Supplies," in <i>No War for Oil: US Dependency and the Middle East</i> (Oakland, California: The Independent Institute, 2011), 9-37.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b> Robert Goralski and Russell W. Freeburg, "Chapter 9. Japan's Oil Gains," in <i>Oil &amp; War: How the Deadly Struggle for Fuel in WWII Meant Victory or Defeat</i>, (NY: William Morrow and Company, 1987), 141-159.</p>
Meeting 14 R. 27 Feb.	<p><b>World War II: Japan's Fall and the Allied Offensive</b> Read Yergin 333-370.</p> <p><b>Recommended Readings</b> Robert Goralski and Russell W. Freeburg, "Chapter. 18. Japan's Sinking Fortunes", in <i>Oil &amp; War: How the Deadly Struggle for Fuel in WWII Meant Victory or Defeat</i>, (NY: William Morrow and Company, 1987), 304-321.</p> <p>Robert Goralski and Russell W. Freeburg, "Chapter 14. The Allied Oil Offensive" in <i>Oil &amp; War: How the Deadly Struggle for Fuel in WWII Meant Victory or Defeat</i>, (NY: William Morrow and Company, 1987), 234-249.</p>

#### Topic 4. Post-War Boom and Techno-Cultural Revolution 1945-1970s

Meeting 15 T. 4 Mar.	<p><b>Blasting to and from Suburban Auto-Communities</b> Rudi Volti, "Chapter Five: In High Gear 1945-1965," and "Chapter Six: Second Thoughts, 1965-1990," in <i>Car and Culture</i> (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 87-114, 115-136.</p> <p>Regina Lee Blaszczyk, "Chapter 7: Destination Suburbia," in <i>American Consumer Society 1905-2005: From Hearth to HDTV</i> (Wheeling, Illinois: Harland Davidson Inc. 2009), 198-214.</p>
Meeting 16 R. 6 Mar.	<p><b>American Consumerism Spreads to Western Europe with Plasticity</b> Susan Freinkerl, "Plastic: A Toxic Love Story," (Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011), 1-51</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b> N.F. R. Crafts, "Chapter Four: The Great Boom: 1950-1973," in ed. Max-Stephen Schulze, <i>Western Europe: Economic and Social Change since 1945</i> (London, New York: Longman, 1999), 42-62.</p>
Meeting 17 T. 11 Mar.	<p><b>The New Air Travel Culture Up in Heaven and down on Earth</b> Roger E. Bilstein, "Chapter 6: Higher Horizons, 1955-1965," and "Chapter 7: From the Earth to the Moon, 1965-1975," in <i>Flight in America 1900-1983</i> (Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984), 230-245, 247-267.</p> <p>Alastair Gordon, "Chapter 5: Jet-Land 1957-1975," and "Chapter 6: The Sterile Concourse: 1975-2000," in <i>Naked Airport: A Cultural History of the World Airports</i>, (New York, NY: H. Holt, 2004), 190-217 and 235-255.</p>

#### Topic 5. The Cold War: End of Colonialism, Multinationals, and Oil Nationalism

Meeting 1 R. 13 Mar.	<p><b>New Imperialism, Oil Nationalism and the Cold War</b> Read Yergin 432-461</p> <p>Ray Kiely, "Chapter 5: The Cold War, Post-War Boom and New Theories of Imperialism," in <i>Rethinking Imperialism</i> (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 109-129.</p>
Meeting 19. T. 18 Mar.	<p><b>Multinationals and their Balance Sheet: Vanguard of Modernism, Agents of Imperialism, or Victims of Nationalism?</b> Steve Marsh, "HMG, AIOC and the Anglo-Iranian Oil crisis: In defence of Anglo-Iranian," <i>Diplomacy &amp; Statecraft</i>, Volume 12, Issue 4, 2001, 143-174.</p> <p>John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, "Chapter 8. Agents of Influence: the Multinationals, 1850-2002," in <i>The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea</i> (New York: The Modern Library, 2003), 160-175.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b> Steve Marsh, "Anglo-American Crude Diplomacy: Multinational Oil and the Iranian Oil Crisis, 1951-53," <i>Contemporary British History</i>, Volume 21, Issue 1, 2007, 25-53.</p>

## Topic 6. OPEC's Imperium, End of the Cold War and Energy Security

Meeting 20 R. 20 Mar	<p><b>OPEC and its Founding</b> Read Yergin 501-523 and 545-570.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b> Manuchehr Farmanfarman and Roxane Farmanfarman, "A Gentlemen's Agreement," and "A Tale of OPEC," in <i>Blood &amp; Oil: S Prince's Memoir of Iran From the Shah to the Ayatollah</i> (New York: Random House, 2005), 339-345.</p>
Meeting 21 T. 25 Mar.	<p><b>Rise of the Rentier States and the Western Military Industrial Complex</b> Read Yergin 615-680.</p> <p><b>Read only one of the following:</b> Luciani, Giacomo, "Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East", in <i>International Relations of the Middle East</i>, ed. Louise Fawcett, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 81-103.</p> <p>Brian C. Black, "Chapter 5: Supply and Weapons," in <i>Crude Reality: Petroleum in World History</i> (Ranham, Maryland: Rowman &amp; Littlefield Publishers, 2012), 125-147.</p>
Meeting 22 R. 27 Mar.	<p><b>"I am the Sheik of Calgary": OPEC's gift to Alberta</b> Peter Foster, "Chapter 17: Peter Lougheed, the Bucks Stop Here," and "Chapter 18: the Empire Builders," in <i>The Blue-Eyed Sheiks: the Canadian Oil Establishment</i> (Toronto: Collins, 1979) 244-264, 265-277.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b> John Richards and Larry Pratt, "Chapter 9: Empire Alberta: the Province as Entrepreneur," in <i>Prairie Capitalism: Power and Influence in the New West</i> (Toronto: The Canadian Publishers, 1979), 215-249.</p>
Meeting 23 T. 1 April* <b>Research Essay Due</b>	<p><b>1980s Rebound, Kuwait War, and the American New World Order</b> Read Yergin 681-762.</p> <p><b>Recommended Reading</b> Efraim Karsh and Inari Rautsi, "Why Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait?" <i>Survival: Global Politics and Strategy</i>, Volume 33, Issue 1, 1991, 18-30.</p>

## Topic 7. Oil, New Sources and Environment

Meeting 24 R. 3 April	<p><b>Oil and the Green Challenge: Environmental Crisis and Environmental Warfare</b> <b>Read only one of the following:</b> Gramling, Robert, and William R. Freudenburg. "The Exxon Valdez oil spill in the context of US petroleum politics," <i>Organization &amp; Environment</i>, Vol. 6, No. 3, 1992, 175-196.</p> <p>R. Sen Gupta, S. P. Fondekar, and R. Alagarsamy, "State of Oil Pollution in the Northern Arabian Sea after the 1991 Gulf Oil Spill," <i>Marine Pollution Bulletin</i>, Volume 27, 1993, 85-91.</p>
Meeting 25 T. 8 April	<p><b>Oil and the Green Challenge: Environmental Crisis and Environmental Warfare</b> <b>B Read only one of the following:</b> enjamin K. Sovacool, "The costs of failure: A preliminary assessment of major energy accidents, 1907-2007," <i>Energy Policy</i>, Vol. 36, Issue 5, May 2008, 1802-1820.</p> <p>David, Crane, "Chapter 7: the Sands," in <i>Controlling the Interest: The Canadian Gas and Oil Stakes</i> (Toronto, The Canadian Publishers, 1982), 206-225.</p>

### SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)