Course Title:
Seminar in Economic Geography: A Global Overview of the Oil and Gas Industry

Course Number:
GEOG 6230-222

Course Description:
A seminar sampling the non-technical literature dealing with the oil and gas industry.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>March 17-22, 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Stuttgart, Germany. See site director for classroom location.</td>
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<td>Hours</td>
<td>Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 pm; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Last day to enroll or drop without penalty</td>
<td>February 16, 2015</td>
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Site Director:
Antoinette Colaninno. Stuttgart Army Education Center. DSN: 431-3304; Fax 431-2571 or CIV 07031-15-2580 FAX 07031-15-2571. Email: apstuttgart@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

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<tr>
<th>Course Professor</th>
<th>Bret Wallach</th>
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<td>Mailing Address</td>
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<td>E-mail Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bwallach@ou.edu">bwallach@ou.edu</a></td>
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Professor availability:
The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Materials posted on OU Desire to Learn (D2L). Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Course Objectives:
The objective is to spend a week soaking up and talking about this industry to the point of saturation—and just beyond.

Course Outline:

Tuesday:
We’ll begin with Daniel Yergin's industry history, *The Prize*. This book was the basis for an excellent, eight-part PBS documentary, all of which is on YouTube, so although you have the choice of reading the book (a brick, though an interesting one) I’ll ask you instead to watch the TV programs. On D2L you will also see a short file called Yergin Notes. As you watch the programs, keep an eye out for the names on those notes, some of which will pop up on a quiz.
Wednesday:
We'll look during this class at the industry today. For this, look at the files (on D2L under Content) called Industry Overview and Overview Graphics.

Thursday:
The hot topics this afternoon are fracking and the Alberta oil or tar sands. Read the excerpt (on D2L under Content) of Russell Gold's *Boom*. As with Yergin, read the separately posted notes. In addition, watch the YouTube video of Chevron's CEO, John Watson, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Also watch the YouTube video of the Pont Loma interview with Bill McKibben, a long-time foe of tar-sands development.

Friday:
We'll focus during this class on the 800-pound gorilla, ExxonMobil. In preparation, read the excerpts (on D2L under Content) from Steve Coll's *Private Empire*. I've posted some Coll Notes that I'd like you to be familiar with; some of the references will require you to dig on your own. Also, watch the YouTube video of Charlie Rose interviewing Rex Tillerson, the company's CEO.

Saturday morning:
The topic this morning is BP. In preparation, read the excerpt (on D2L under Content) of Abrahm Lustgarten's *Run to Failure: BP and the Making of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster*. As with Yergin and Coll, read my notes. Also, watch two YouTube videos: Charlie Rose interviewing John Browne and, separately, Tony Hayward at the Stanford business school. (Both appearances predate the oil spill by several years.)

Saturday afternoon:
The topic this morning is the politics of oil in general. There are two very different texts. The first is a d2l excerpt from John Hofmeister's *Why We Hate the Oil Companies*. The author was head of Shell's American operations from 2005 to 2008. To accompany this, watch the YouTube interview with Shell's current CEO, Ben van Beurden, who appears with Statoil's Helge Lund at the Columbia Center on Global Change. The second text comes from an anti-industry activist, James Marriott. An excerpt of his book *The Oil Road* is posted, with separate notes, on D2L.

Sunday morning:
Read the d2l excerpt from *A Cubic Mile of Oil* by Hewitt Crane, Edwin Kinderman, and Ripudaman Malhotra. Their book helps provide an intuitive sense of the scale of the task of providing abundant energy, whether from oil or other sources. To help further with grasping the scale of this industry, explore the tanker traffic displayed on the Marine Traffic website (http://www.marinetraffice.com/) and the tank-farm distribution indicated on tankterminals.com (https://tankterminals.com/) (The first website has an ad-plagued main page, unless you pay for an upgrade; the second offers only a main page unless you pay. Don't pay for either; explore only as far as you can get without payment.)

Sunday afternoon:
Exam

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:
There will be eight quizzes, one at each class. Each quiz will be worth ten points. There will also be a final exam, worth 20 points. Eventually, I will have a course total for everyone, with a maximum of 100 points. I grade by rank order, not absolute percentage, so those of you who believe that life is not worth living unless your transcript is bestrewn with A's the way Leonid Brezhnev's jacket was carpeted with ribbons will want your point total to be exceeded by not more than half the students in the class.
Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Bret Wallach, Ph.D.

Education
Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs Professor since 1999
• Professor, Department of Geography, University of Oklahoma

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
Regional Geography, especially of Asia and the Middle East

Representative Publications and Presentations
A list of Dr. Wallach’s publications can be found on his faculty page at http://ags.ou.edu/~bwallach/.