The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

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

Course Number:
GEOG 6220 - 223

Course Description:
A seminar with one foot in reading several overviews of this behemoth industry and with another independently exploring several slivers of it.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Location: Classes held at Building 2784, Room 301, Kapaun Air Station on Vogelweh Air Base.
- Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 28, 2013

Site Director:
Kendra Burnside. Assistant: Janee LeFrere. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-47-6807; After Hours: 0174-175-4754 or 0151-2414-2807; Fax: 06371-479839; E-mail: apramstein@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
- Course Professor: Bret Wallach
  Mailing Address: 626 Sarkeys Energy Center, OU,
  Norman, OK 73019
  Telephone Number: (405) 325-5325
  Fax Number: (405) 325-6090
  E-mail Address: bwallach@ou.edu
- 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:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.).


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Notes posted under Content on 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.
Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

The obvious objective is to spend a week soaking up everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask about this industry. The subversive objective is to remind you that the academic freedom to learn things on your own is not jailhouse drudgery.

Course Outline:

- Tuesday: Discussion of the two books.
- Wednesday: Part 1 of the online notes (Big Oil Adapts)
- Thursday: Part 2 of the online notes: Petroleum in North America
- Friday: South America
- Saturday 1: Eurasia outside the Middle East
- Saturday 2: The Middle East
- Sunday 1: Africa
- Sunday 2: Exam

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

1. An essay on the two books is due at our first meeting. Both of the books are long and widely reviewed, so there will be a temptation to base your essay on several reviews rather than the books themselves. The assignment here is designed to foil that strategy. Imagine that both authors are appearing together at a conference session. You are introducing them. You are taking your time about it, however. Basing your comments on the two books you’ve read, tell the audience the major points on which you think the authors agree and also the major points on which you think they disagree or at least differ. Be specific: support what you say by pointing to evidence in the books. Finally, identify the most important things that in your judgment the authors omitted from their books. Dare to read their minds: what do you suspect they think about those omitted topics? Note: write this essay as though you were actually speaking it. Be brave: you can actually use verb contractions, and there’s no room for footnotes. Length: this is a bit like specifying a combat withdrawal date. In other words, it’s stupid, but, hey, who am I? Go for 1,000-2,000 words.

2. At each class period from Wednesday through Sunday morning, I want you to make an oral presentation in which you share what you have found while exploring one tiny detail introduced in the course notes. Do not repeat those notes or tell us what we already know: go beyond to prepare what amounts to a 200-word bit of independent research. Here are some examples, although I’d prefer your own. Wednesday: what’s happened with Exxon’s operations in Libya? Thursday: What got George Mitchell thinking and how did he proceed? Friday: what’s the status of Brazil’s decision-making on the division of offshore royalties? Saturday 1: How fares Nabucco? Saturday 2: recent developments in the Levant Basin. Sunday 1: does China have a foot in Chad? How long you have to speak in class will depend largely on class enrollment. From my perspective, a dozen students is ideal. More than that, we will have to squeeze presentations or reduce their number.

3. The Sunday afternoon exam will cover all the presentations we’re heard, along with the general class discussion. It will be an open-note exam.

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

Each of the three assignments above is worth a third of your course grade.

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. 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 Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your 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.

Copyright

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

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

See http://ags.ou.edu/bwallach