

SOCI 4091: Oil & Development

Instructor: Dr. Mark C.J. Stoddart

Office location: AA 4070

Office hours: Tu & Th 10.30-11.30, 2.00-3.00.

Class location: A4049D

Class time: Tues. & Thurs. 3.30-4.45

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About the course:

Contemporary societies run on fossil fuels. Some scholars use terms like “fossil capitalism” or “petrocapi-talism” to describe our reliance on oil for transportation, manufacturing and heating. Oil exploration, production and consumption may produce social and economic benefits. However, it also carries social and ecological costs, which are often contested by social movements. In this course, we will explore the insights that a sociological perspective can bring to bear on oil and its relationship to socially and ecologically sustainable forms of development.

Required reading available at MUN bookstore:

Urry, J. (2013). *Societies beyond oil: Oil dregs and social futures*. London: Zed Books.

Links to additional articles will be posted via Desire2Learn (D2L).

Communications policy:

I will reply to course related e-mail within 24 hours between Monday and Friday. If you e-mail after 5pm on Friday, **do not expect a reply until Monday morning**.

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments, exams, notes
Week 1: Sept. 5	PART 1: INTRODUCTION	Th: None.	
Week 2: Sept. 10 & 12		Tu: Urry, Introduction <hr/> Th: Bond-Graham. 2010. 'Et in Arcadia, Oil'. Capitalism Nature Socialism 21:8-20. Available via D2L.	
Week 3: Sept. 17 & 19	PART 2: THE PROBLEM OF OIL	Tu: Urry, Chapter 1 <hr/> Th: Urry, Chapter 2	
Week 4: Sept. 24 & 26		Tu: Urry, Chapter 3 <hr/> Th: Urry, Chapter 4	
Week 5: Oct. 1 & 3		Tu: Urry, Chapter 5 <hr/> Th: Urry, Chapter 6	
Week 6: Oct. 8 & 10	In-class mid-term	Tu: Urry, Chapter 7 <hr/> Th: None.	<hr/> <u>In-class mid-term Thursday, October 10.</u>
Week 7: Oct. 17	PART 3: OIL & SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY - CASE STUDIES	Th: Altwater. 2007. "The Capitalist Energy System and the Crisis of the Global Financial Markets: the Impact on Labour." Labour, Capital and Society no. 40 (1 & 2):19-34. Available via D2L.	Reading break – no class Tuesday, October 15.
Week 8: Oct. 22 & 24		Tu: Osha. 2006. "Birth of the Ogoni Protest Movement." Journal of Asian and African Studies 41.1-2: 13-38. Available via D2L. <hr/> Th: Oluwaniyi. 2010. "Oil and Youth Militancy in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region." Journal of Asian and African Studies 45.3 (Jun 2010): 309-325. Available via D2L.	
Week 9: Oct. 29 & 31		Tu: Schluter et al. 2004. "Enough is Enough: Emerging 'Self-Help' Environmentalism in a Petrochemical Town." Environmental Politics no. 13 (4):715-733. Available via D2L. <hr/>	

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments, exams, notes
		<p>Th: Norgaard. 2006. "We Don't Really Want to Know: Environmental Justice and Socially Organized Denial of Global Warming in Norway." <i>Organization & Environment</i> no. 19 (3):347-370. Available via D2L.</p>	
<p>Week 10: Nov. 5 & 7</p>		<p>Tu: Remillard. 2011. "Picturing environmental risk: The Canadian oil sands and the National Geographic," <i>International Communication Gazette</i> 73.1-2: 127-143. Available via D2L.</p> <hr/> <p>Th: Slawinski & Bansal. 2012. "A Matter of Time: The Temporal Perspectives of Organizational Responses to Climate Change," <i>Organization Studies</i> 33.11: 1537-1563. Available via D2L.</p>	<p>Cinema Politica Film Screening: <i>White Water, Black Gold.</i></p> <p>NOTE: This class may be held in an alternate location – details to be announced.</p>
<p>Week 11: Nov. 12 & 14</p>		<p>Tu: Gramling & Freudenburg. 2012. "A Century of Macondo: United States Energy Policy and the BP Blowout Catastrophe." <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> 56.1: 48-75. Available via D2L..</p> <hr/> <p>Th: Widener. 2009. Oil Tourism: Disasters and Destinations in Ecuador and the Philippines. <i>Sociological Inquiry</i> 79 (3):266-288. Available via D2L</p>	<p>Guest instructor: Stephanie Sodero</p> <hr/> <p>Hard copy of paper is due in class on Thursday, November 14.</p>
<p>Week 12: Nov. 19 & 21</p>	<p>PART 4: TOWARDS POST-CARBON SOCIETIES?</p>	<p>Tu: Urry, Chapter 8</p> <hr/> <p>Th: Urry, Chapter 9</p>	
<p>Week 13: Nov. 26 & 28</p>		<p>Tu: Urry, Chapter 10</p> <hr/> <p>Th: Urry, Chapter 11</p>	<p>Guest instructor: Stephanie Sodero</p>
<p>Week 14: Dec. 3</p>		<p>Tu: Urry, Chapter 12</p>	<p>The take-home exam will be distributed <u>in class</u> on Tuesday, December 3.</p>

Evaluations

Assignment	Description	Value	Due date
Reading responses	Throughout the term, you must submit 6 responses to the course reading (typed, 1-page double spaced, with 12-pt font and 1" margins). The responses should <i>briefly</i> summarize the reading, but also go beyond summary as you discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the reading. You may submit reading responses at any time during the term. However, each of your reading responses must be submitted IN CLASS ON THE DAY we are discussing that reading.	20%	Ongoing. Responses will only be accepted <u>IN CLASS ON THE DAY</u> we are discussing that reading.
In-class mid-term	The mid-term exam covers the reading and classroom discussion from weeks 2 through 6. It will consist of 6 open-ended questions, of which you must answer 5.	20%	Thursday, October 10
Research paper	Use the research paper to explore the question: How can a sociological approach to oil help us move towards more socially and environmentally sustainable forms of development? I encourage you to draw on real world examples for your paper (web resources, media coverage, personal experience). However, your analysis must draw from the course material and also incorporate at least 5 academic sources beyond the course reading (academic journal articles or books). The paper should be 10 pages, not including title page and references. The paper must be double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins. Please include a title page with your name and title of paper, as well as a bibliography. APA style should be used for in-text citations and bibliography. An APA style guide is at: http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/apa.php	30%	<u>Hard copies</u> of the paper are due <u>in class</u> on Thursday, November 15.
Take-home exam	This exam is comprehensive, covering the reading and classroom discussion from the whole course. It will consist of 5 essay questions, of which you must answer 3. Each short essay should be 4 pages, and should demonstrate the breadth of your knowledge of the course material. The final exam must be double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins. Please include a title page with your name, as well as a bibliography of work cited in the exam. APA style should be used for in-text citations and bibliography. An APA style guide is at: http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/apa.php	30%	The take-home exam will be distributed <u>in class</u> on Tuesday, December 3. <u>Electronic copies</u> of the exam are due <u>via D2L</u> by 5.00pm on <u>Monday, December 9.</u>

Late assignments and missed exams policy

A student who is prevented from writing a test or mid-term examination or completing assigned work by the deadline, by illness or bereavement or other acceptable cause, duly authenticated in writing, may apply, in writing and with supporting documents, for an alternate evaluation. Normally, this application must be made within one week of the original date of the examination or deadline to the course instructor. Otherwise 5% per day will be deducted on late work. Make-up exams and are allowed at the instructor's discretion.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Cheating includes but is not limited to allowing another student to copy from your work, presenting someone else's work as your own including through failure to credit the source of ideas, consulting electronic devices such as mobile phones or MP3 players and/or interacting with others while a test is ongoing. Any submission in this course that is similar to another author's work, beyond chance, will be treated as plagiarism. Information about procedures and penalties for academic misconduct is outlined in the University Calendar.

Additional Information**Campus Support**

The Academic Advising Centre (SN-4053) provides academic guidance to students in their first year of study. Students seeking advice about a specific Major or Minor should contact the designated undergraduate advisor in that department.

The Commons (QEII library) provides access to print, electronic and technology resources.

The Counselling Centre (UC-5000) helps students develop their personal capabilities, ranging from study strategies to assisting distressed students.

Student Affairs and Services (Answers, UC-3005) answers questions about such things as courses, housing, books, financial matters and health.

The Writing Centre (SN-2053) is a free, drop-in facility for students and helps them become better writers and critical thinkers.

The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (UC -4007) serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning (disabilities), chronic illness, or mental health; support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.

Inclusion and Equity

This course brings together students from a variety of academic disciplines, as well as ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Learning from our diversity of experience, values and world views is a strength of the university experience. In order for all students to get the most from this course, dialogue should be respectful across disciplinary, cultural and personal differences.

Students with Disabilities

Students who require physical or academic accommodations are encouraged to speak privately to the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be made in order that you may participate fully in the course. All conversations will remain confidential.

Class Cancellations Policy

While we will stick to this syllabus as closely as possible, I reserve the right to make changes as we go along in response to class cancellations. You will be notified of any class cancellations through D2L, as well as MUN's class cancellation web page: <http://www.mun.ca/main/cancellations.php>