

## Economics 328 (L01) (Petroleum Economics)

Instructor: WD Walls  
Email: [wdwalls@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wdwalls@ucalgary.ca)

Lecture Location: ZOOM Delivery  
Lecture Days/Time: MWF 11-11:50AM

Office: ZOOM Delivery  
Office Hours: MW 10-10:50  
<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/96861150546>

(Fall 2020)

### Course Description:

The course provides a nontechnical introduction to the economics of petroleum production, crude oil markets, and refining economics. The course focuses on global crude oil and refined product markets. Through the application of introductory microeconomic theory (at the level of Econ 201) and simple descriptive empirical analysis, students will gain a working knowledge of petroleum demand, petroleum supply, government policy (including royalty regimes, trade quotas, transport infrastructure, conservation and the environment) and world markets for crude oil and refined petroleum products.

### Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- a) be introduced to sources of oil industry data and introduced to collecting, collating, and analyzing oil industry data for the purpose of analyzing petroleum markets.
- b) be introduced to major events in the evolution of the economics of the world crude oil market from 1900 to the present, with particular emphasis on the years since the formation of OPEC in 1960, and the commoditization of the oil market since 1980, and the evolution of the National Oil Companies that now control some ninety percent of the world's oil reserves; be introduced to the events associated with large price shocks in the world oil market.
- c) be introduced to the economics of petroleum refining, the transportation of petroleum products, and the market for finished products in an international context.
- d) be introduced to the mechanics of various short-run and long-run petroleum demand models--- for crude oil and various refined petroleum products--- and have an intuitive understanding of the basic statistical output of these demand models.
- e) be introduced to the intuition behind the theory of energy supply, the standard theory of depletable resources, and be introduced to the empirical evidence of supplier behavior in energy markets.
- f) be introduced to government oil industry economic policy including royalty regimes and taxes, trade restrictions, and transportation infrastructure.
- g) be introduced to the environmental regulation that impacts the petroleum industry, including conservation policies, renewable fuels mandates, pricing of effluents, and reclamation and clean-up.

- h) be introduced to the mechanics of a computable model of the world oil market.
- i) develop skills applying the concepts of cost, demand, and price formation in competitive markets and in markets where participants may have market power.
  - be introduced to various conceptual models of OPEC behavior.
  - be introduced to empirical evidence that helps to distinguish between various economic models of OPEC.
  - develop the skills necessary for the critical evaluation of news stories about the international petroleum industry.
  - be able to produce a twelve-page written report on a petroleum markets topic that combines conceptual economic ideas (at the level of Econ 201), market institutions, and simple descriptive empirical analysis.

**Course Outline:**

1. Petroleum Industry Data and Statistics
2. Historical development of market institutions in petroleum markets
3. Economics of Petroleum Refining
4. Petroleum Demand: Short run, long run, empirical models and interpretation for crude oil and finished products
5. Petroleum Supply and Economics of Depletable Resources
6. Government Oil Industry Policy: Royalty Regimes and Taxes, Transport Infrastructure, Trade Restrictions.
7. Government Environmental Policy: Conservation, Renewable Fuels Mandates, Effluent Pricing, Reclamation and Clean-Up.
8. Conceptual Models of World Oil Markets
9. Empirical Characterization of Economic Models of World Oil Markets

**Prerequisites/corequisites:**

Econ 201

**Required Textbook(s):**

Coursepack to be purchased from Bound & Copied.

**Recommended Textbook(s):**

None.

**Online Delivery:**

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have: computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

**Desire2Learn:**

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

**Lectures:**

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

Quizzes (3 @ 15 % each)	45%
Class Participation	10%
Video Presentation of Term Project	5%
Written Term Project	40%
	<hr/>
	100%

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

Students must receive a passing grade on the **final written term project and video presentation** to pass the course.

If a student's letter grade on the written final project exceeds his or her midterm(s) letter grade, the weight of the midterm(s) is (are) transferred to the final project. The student must have written the midterm(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s) such as a medical note or statutory declaration.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

Course material dealing with a particular assignment will typically be covered in class at least 3 days before the assignment is due; thus, assignments can be completed at any time up to and including the due date. Given these factors, only situations where someone can document illness or domestic affliction for an extended period would possibly warrant shifting the assignment weight to the final exam. Furthermore, technical problems can be expected to occur with computer systems (and internet availability) so it may be a good idea to not wait until the last minute to submit your assignment.

The midterm exams are take-home exams designed and intended to be completed in 50 minutes. The exam(s) will be CLOSED book. The exam(s) will be available on D2L. Student will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. All students will be accommodated to have 100% additional time to complete and upload the exam, at a time of your choosing, within a 24-hour period determined by the instructor.

**This course has no final examination.** Instead, the course emphasized writing and presentation skills. The final project and video presentation are to be submitted using Dropbox in D2L.

All other course components will also be accessed, submitted, and returned through D2L.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the written final project; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

**Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:**

*For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

*For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade on the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

**Academic Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and [http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf).

**Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright->

[policy.pdf](#). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

**Important Dates:**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

**Student Organizations:**

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

E-mail: [econrep@fasaucalgary.ca](mailto:econrep@fasaucalgary.ca) and Web: [www.fasaucalgary.ca](http://www.fasaucalgary.ca).

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at [societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com](mailto:societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com).

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625].

**Student Support and Resources:**

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

**Notes:**

1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

WDW

2020-08-10