

## Economics 328 (L01) (Petroleum Economics)

Instructor: W. D. Walls  
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Lecture Location: ST131  
Lecture Days/Time: MWF 1000--1050

Office: SS 332  
Office Hours: MW 10:50--11:30

Fall 2023

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### 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 understanding 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.
- j) be introduced to various conceptual models of OPEC behavior.

- k) be introduced to empirical evidence that helps to distinguish between various economic models of OPEC.
- l) develop the skills necessary for the critical evaluation of news stories about the international petroleum industry.
- m) 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 a 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 Non-Renewable 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):**

None. All required readings accessible through D2L page.

**Recommended Textbook(s):**

None. All optional readings accessible through D2L page.

**Required Access to Technology:**

All course readings and recordings will be provided through the D2L web portal. This will require Internet access with the capability of rendering PDF files and Yuja video files.

**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.

**Grade Determination:**

Quizzes (3 @ 15 % each)	45%
Video Presentation of Term Project	5%
Written Term Project	50%
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	<b>100%</b>

**Examination Details:**

Tests **WILL NOT** involve multiple choice questions, fill in the blanks, matching items across columns, or connecting the dots.

Programmable calculators, cellphones, textbooks, course notes, and other electronic devices will not be allowed during the writing of tests. Students are reminded that simply being able to access a cellphone during an exam is academic misconduct.

The dates for the three in-class tests are **September 29th, October 27th, and December 1st**. The due date for the Written Term Project and Video Presentation is **December 12 @ 9AM**.

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

**Grading Policies:**

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 **written term project and video presentation** to pass the course. Students committing academic misconduct on the final project will not receive a passing grade for the course.

If a student's letter grade on the final project exceeds their test(s) letter grade, the weight of the test(s) is (are) transferred to the final project. The student must have written the test(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s).

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>.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

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 final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

**Reappraisal of Grades:**

*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 and Intellectual Honesty:**

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.

*Statement of Intellectual Honesty, see Calendar K.4*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

*Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct*

<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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf> and <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/faq-privacy-faculty-members.pdf> and <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/faq-privacy-students.pdf>

**Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information:**

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note taking only unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

**Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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.

**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>.

**Instructor Intellectual Property:**

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.

**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

Office: SS 803, 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 [sue@ucalgarysue.com](mailto:sue@ucalgarysue.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! Drop in at SS102, 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] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

**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.

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2023-07-28