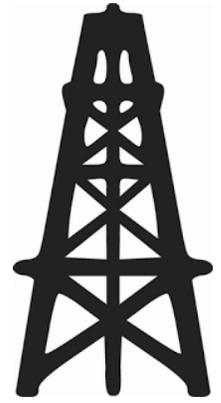


Petroleum or Patriarchy?



Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Fall 2016

WGSS 3321 - 29439

**Gender in Transnational Perspective:
Petroleum, Patriarchy and the Paradox of Plenty**

T/Th 8:30-10, AH 304, Dr. Alsowayel

Does oil wealth create social, political and legal opportunity? Countries with vast oil reserves are surely richer and, therefore better off than those without. Yet, recent research suggests that oil wealth stunts a polity's growth and that it promotes gender inequity, economic disparity and even political violence. This course examines the ostensible paradox, is oil a curse or is it a treasure, does it help or does it hinder? Here, we selectively compare a number of oil rich states. Among the countries we examine are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Brunei, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. As we consider the role and influence of oil in each country, we will also pay particular attention to other variables that may contribute to the respective social structures. These include among others religion, colonization and patriarchy.

