

Antioch University McGregor

VIS 392: The Petroleum Age (4 credits)

Summer 2008

**Joe Cronin
Saul Greenberg**

Use FirstClass E-mail for contacting Instructor

July 28-31, Mon-Thurs, 9am-4:30pm - Multipurpose Room

**Public Presentations by learning communities: August 7, 6-9 p.m. -
Multipurpose Room**

**NOTE ON ATTENDANCE: STUDENTS NEED TO BE PRESENT FOR ALL
CLASS MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION IN ORDER TO
OBTAIN CREDIT**

Course Content

In this course, we will examine the dramatic rise of the petroleum industry and its links to the acceleration of the growth in human population, fossil fuel usage and dependence, consumption patterns, resource wars, and models for economic growth projections. We will also explore linkages between the rise in the use of petroleum and other fossil fuels and their likely dramatic decline in the future. We will also examine possibilities for delinking our dependencies on oil and other fossil fuels by considering sources of renewable energy, and preparing for substantial changes in human communities that would facilitate or accompany such changes.

Learning Outcomes

Course Requirements (including modes of assessment)

*Students are required to attend ALL course sessions, plus the public presentation.

*Students are required to work in small teams to produce a one hour public presentation, that will be made available to all community members.

*Students must write a paper based on course reading materials, and individual research. Papers will be 10-12 typewritten, double-spaced pages for Undergraduate students, and 16-20 pages for Graduate students.

*More details for each of these assignments will be given at the first class session, July 28.

Texts Required

Richard Heinberg, *Peak Everything: Waking Up to a Century of Declines*

Michael T. Klare, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet: The New Geopolitics of Energy*

Janet L. Sawin, *Mainstreaming Renewable Energy in the 21st Century*
(Worldwatch Paper #169, available electronically)

Assignment for the first day of class

Please read through as much material listed below as you can before this class begins. We will be busy throughout the week of class meetings, and you are expected to work with your small group on your public presentations the following week, so time will become scarce. Please, read ahead!!!

GUESTS – Will include Megan Quinn and pat Murphy from Community Solutions, Yellow Springs

FILM: *A Crude Awakening*

Course Schedule (Note: Please check for updated version in early June; graduate students will be given additional reading assignments)

July 28: The Rise of the Oil Industry
Readings: Heinberg, Klare

July 29: Looking Out from Hubbard's Peak
Readings: Heinberg, Klare

July 30: The Ecology of Oil, and Looming Resource Wars
Readings: Heinberg, Klare

July 31: Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources
Readings: Sawin, Handouts

August 7: Public Presentations

August 12: Individual Papers Due

Antioch University Policies

This course observes all institutional policies as defined in the Antioch University McGregor Undergraduate Student Handbook, *including the policy on attendance*. In this course [excluding the summer session and workshops] students may not be awarded credit if they miss more than two classes.