

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of History



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



HTST 395: History of Energy

MWF 9:00-9:50, EEEL 161, Dr Petra Dolata

This course will provide an introduction to the history of energy. It will reconstruct the historical trajectories of important energy sources and engage with a number of historical approaches that can be adopted when studying the role of energy in different time periods and societies. We will look at the various forms of energy as well as the impact that technology, culture, and politics had upon their respective developments and uses. We will examine in detail how energy transformed societies in Europe and North America. These examples will challenge deterministic assumptions about the causal link between energy and development, be it economic, political, societal or cultural. This is a lecture course based on three books but there will also be time to discuss the assigned readings. The lectures will be structured chronologically as well as along core themes and will include international, national and local levels of inquiry.

Readings (all available from the U of C Bookstore): Christopher Armstrong and H.V. Nelles, *Wilderness and Waterpower* (2013), David E. Nye, *Consuming Power* (2001), and Vaclav Smil, *Energy Transitions* (2010)

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