

# ENERGY Literature

**English 274: Literature & Society**  
**Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45 :: English Building 259**  
**Jamie L. Jones :: [jaljones@illinois.edu](mailto:jaljones@illinois.edu)**  
**All majors welcome.**

In this course, we will examine texts that reflect on the politics, aesthetics, economics, and historical significance of energy. From *Moby-Dick* to *Syriana*, American culture has turned to art to make meaning out of energy: to praise and lament the energy industries. We will encounter a variety of texts in this course: novels, newspaper articles, political polemics, historical narratives, and narrative and documentary films. We will not privilege nonfiction over fiction or classic literature over last week's newspaper articles: rather, we will approach all sources critically, as texts subject to fine-grained literary analysis.

Students will write two critical essays and some informal writing. Students will also be assessed based on periodic quizzes, exams, and on active, engaged participation in class discussion.



**Where does your power come from?**