

Reading Questions for *Petrolia* and *The Prize*

STS.038 Class Discussion: Wednesday, November 8, 2006

- 1) Why does Black distinguish “extraction” from “degradation?”
- 2) What does it mean to study the history of landscape? Why does Black call Petrolia’s landscape “Sacrificial?”
- 3) What role does “myth” play in Black’s history? What role does “progress” play?
- 4) Was oil drilling in Petrolia scientific?
- 5) Why does Black rely on 19th century photographs? How are they used as historical sources? What advantages do they provide as sources and what disadvantages?
- 6) Why does Black describe Oil Creek as an “Industrial Apparatus?” How did this process occur? Was it inevitable?
- 7) In Yergin’s account of the emergence of the Persian Gulf oil industry, who was (were) responsible for these developments?
- 8) What role did science play?
- 9) What role did politics?
- 10) In tone and argument, how do Black and Yergin differ?