The Structure of the Industry - Topics include: hydrocarbon characteristics; gases (types of gases, gas uses, wet/lean gas, dry/lean gas, condensate, gas processing, NGLs); crude oil (types of crude, crude oil uses, gravity measurement and sulfur content); oil and gas measurement units and valuation issues; industry sectors (description of activities in each sector); types of unconventional production; industry participants (integrated companies, independent producers, national oil companies, midstream companies, and contractors/suppliers); world crude oil market (exporters, importers, OPEC, production and price trends); world gas production and impact of LNG; LNG overview (liquefaction, transportation, re-gasification, exporters/importers, and U.S. activity); and unconventional shale and tight rock development in the U.S. (how horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing developed and expanded, impact on production and prices, most-active development areas, and map of U.S. rig counts).

Petroleum Geology and Exploration - Topics include: organic source of oil and gas (aquatic micro-organisms, where they thrive and how they deposit organic debris); sedimentation and sedimentary rock (sources of sediments, how they can mix with and preserve organic debris, organic shale, other types of sedimentary rock, and rock layer formation); rock porosity and permeability; oil and gas formation (how organic debris can mature into oil and gas, impact of burial depth, and oil and gas windows); oil and gas subsurface migration (what causes migration and how oil and gas can flow through porous and permeable rock layers); changes over geological time (impact of plate tectonics, paleomap sequence of how the earth has changed, and when and how U.S. unconventional areas were formed); U.S. sedimentary basins (maps showing location and thickness of basins and current focus areas within those basins); geological example using the Permian Basin (how formed, oil and gas migration into conventional traps, refocus on unconventional formations); conventional traps (trap structures, reservoir rock, and impermeable seal rock); why unconventional shale and tight-rock development requires horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing; overview of exploration methods and tools; and seismic survey procedures. This section makes extensive use of animations to reinforce the subject matter.

Mineral Rights and Leasing - Topics include: how mineral rights ownership in the U.S. differs from the rest of the world; how mineral rights ownership is distributed in the U.S. (private, state, Indian, federal, and land patents), land survey methods (rectangular survey vs. metes and bounds); severability of mineral and surface estates (rights of the mineral estate owner to use the surface); ownership of oil and gas production (fugacious nature of oil and gas and Rule of Capture); common state conservation laws and regulations (well spacing, density restrictions, production allowables, gas flaring, permitting and reporting); horizontal well spacing examples (multi-well pads, lateral spacing, boundary distances, take-point gaps, off-lease spudding, and stacked laterals); oil and gas leasing (why leasing is done, key lease terms, working interests, royalty interests, and example of royalty statement); joint ownership of mineral estate (why it is common, undivided ownership, net mineral acres and net revenue interest), pooling and unitization (why done and forced vs. voluntary); joint operations (how there can be multiple working interest owners in the same work area and an overview of joint operating agreements); title opinions and division orders; mention of other types of oil and gas interests not covered; and a brief overview of federal leasing.
Drilling and Completion - Topics include: well planning; site preparation, rig mobilization; rig structure and functions; drilling tools (bottom hole assembly, MWD/LWD, drill pipe); drilling fluids/mud; all phases of drilling a horizontal well (vertical sections, curve section and lateral section); casing and cementing; directional drilling; hydraulic fracturing (plug and perf method); flowback; tubing and packer; Christmas tree and digital sensors; and advanced methods (micro-seismic during fracturing, batch drilling, walking/skidding rigs, and zipper fracs). Energy Training Resources has exclusive rig-floor video and down-hole animations of the drilling and completion process that is used throughout this section.

Development and Production Operations – Topics include: brief overview of an oil and gas project evaluation (typical revenues and costs, annual projections, and cash flow discounting); well evaluation tools (logging, coring and drillstem tests); brief overview of how reservoir modeling and simulation can be used in development planning; conventional reservoir characteristics (how oil and gas behave in a reservoir and factors involved in reserves estimation); artificial lift; surface processing facilities (animation showing modern unconventional production site layout including flow lines, separator, heater treater, tanks, water pump off, vent gas and flaring); production phases (primary, secondary and tertiary/EOR with animations of each); and oil and gas reserves classifications.