

Global Water

Summer Quarter, First Session – 2014

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Class Meetings: Wednesday evenings, 5:30-9:30pm (June 25 - July 23)

Description

The United Nations has declared the access to affordable, clean water to be a human right. Yet around the world billions of people cannot exercise this right. In addition, people in the developing world often face challenges of drought, floods, and degradation of aquatic ecosystem services. This class explores the challenges of water in developing countries, emerging issues, and potential solutions. Issues to be explored include Integrated Water Resource Management, governance, privatization, gender equality, social justice, climate change, water security, and appropriate technology.

Graduate students (4 credits) and undergraduate students (2 credits) will explore these topics during the first session. Undergraduate and graduate students will participate in the weekly classroom sessions, read from weekly assignments, and do a research project which will include a final paper and presentation. Graduate students will also write weekly assignments on the readings, lead a class seminar on the readings, and do a more in-depth, graduate-level research topic with a more extensive final paper.

Course Objectives

- Learning and understanding:
 - Water science relevant to global water issues
 - Sustainable water development in the context of social and environmental justice
 - The principles of Integrated Water Resources Management
 - Privatization and the Right to Water
 - Hydrophilanthropy – charitable support for water in the developing world
 - Principles of watershed management in the developing world
 - How national water policies vary globally
 - The challenges of transboundary watersheds and international water policy
- Developing and enhancing:
 - Research and analysis skills
 - Communication skills, including writing, group discussion and decision-making, and oral presentation

Class Resources

- Presentations by the instructor
- Selected readings from the assigned book and on-line resources
- In-class exercises, discussions, and seminars on the reading
- Guest speakers and documentary films
- A presentation by each student on a global water issue that they have researched

Attendance and Course Credit

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Participation in class is an important part of the learning process for all the students in the course. Students may be excused for unavoidable conflicts only with prior approval from the instructor. Unexcused absence from a class can result in a partial loss of class credit.

Required elements for earning full credit

- Attendance and active participation in class
- Completion of reading assignments for each class
- Completion of a draft and final research paper and class presentation

Expectations and Evaluation

- One credit will be awarded to undergraduate and graduate students for class participation. This includes attendance, participation in discussions and class exercises, and interactions with the instructor and guest speakers. The instructor expects students to keep up with the reading, and demonstrate their comprehension of the reading and presentations in class discussions. The instructor will evaluate students based on their ability to understand course concepts, and to analyze and integrate the concepts into a deeper understanding of the issues in the course.
- One credit will be awarded to graduate students for their weekly writing assignments on the reading and for their leadership in class, including leading a seminar on the reading.
- One credit for undergraduate students or two credits for graduate students will be awarded for the final project based on the paper and presentation. Expectations are that the student will provide a draft and final paper and make a presentation in a timely fashion. Evaluations will be based on students demonstrating the effort spent in their research; integration of the course concepts into their project; and the clarity, originality, and academic quality of their work. Graduate students will be expected to provide a more detailed, in-depth paper at a graduate level of research and writing.

All students are expected to submit to the instructor: a draft paper, a presentation of the topic, and a final paper, all in a timely fashion based on the following schedule:

- a. **Wednesday July 16:** First draft of research paper
- b. **Wednesday July 23:** Presentation of research paper
- c. **Wednesday July 30:** final research paper

Book for this class:

- Integrated Water Resources Management in Practice
Roberto Lenton (Editor), Mike Muller (Editor)
Paperback, Earthscan Publications Ltd.
250 Pages ,List Price \$77.95
isbn-10: 1844076504, isbn-13: 9781844076505

Greener Bookstore, or www.fetchbook.info