

**Department of Geography  
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Western Ontario  
2006**



**Geography 355F: Water Resources Management**

Instructor: Carol Stewart  
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Class schedule: Wednesdays  
7pm-10pm  
Classroom: SSC 3010  
Office Hours: By Appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This year marks the second year of the UN International Decade for Action: "Water for Life 2005-2015", and the increasing recognition that the divisions between water excess and scarcity are more sharply drawn and more visible than ever. The Decade is designed to accelerate activities to halve by 2015 the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. This is one of the targets included in the UN Millennium Development Goals.

This course examines water, this critical resource, from theoretical, strategic, and practical perspectives through the exploration of the conflict and consensus that surround its management. Its distribution, consumption, and regulation across more- and less-developed countries are also explored through specific case studies.

As an upper year course, this is an interactive and collaborative exercise. This means that you will have opportunity to participate in class discussions, and partner/group work. To ensure constructive and lively discussion, you will need to have familiarized yourselves with the class topic prior to the class by actively reading and preparing to convey your understanding of the material. All students are directly responsible to other students, who are relying on their contributions. Films and guest lectures may supplement lecture material.

## COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic*	Reading	Assignment due
13 Sept.	<b>Introduction to Course</b>		
20 Sept.	<b>Water Quantity and Quality</b>	vii-xx; 57-63; 178-185	
27 Sept.	<b>Uses/Users</b>	66-75	
4 Oct.	<b>Rules, Roles, Responsibility</b>	214-223	
11 Oct.	<b>Water Resources Management</b>	89-102;125- 137;157-162	
18 Oct.	<b>Managing for Climate Change</b>		Climate change case studies
25 Oct.	<b>Fresh water and Ecosystems</b>		Ecosystem case studies
1 Nov.	<b>Moving Water</b>	41-54	Moving water case studies
8 Nov.	<b>Managing Water for Agriculture</b>	78-87; 163- 175	Agriculture case studies
15 Nov.	<b>Water and Health</b>		Health case studies
22 Nov.	<b>Commercialization of Water</b>	1-39	Privatization case studies
29 Nov.	<b>Water and Conflict</b>	104-124; 140-154	Conflict case studies
6 Dec.	<b>Evaluating Sustainability</b>	188-198	Country Report Papers due

\*These topics are guidelines. Their coverage may be extended or lessened as deemed necessary

### Required Text:

McDonald, Bernadette and Douglas Jehl (Eds.). (2003) *Whose Water is it? The Unquenchable Thirst of a Water-Hungry World*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society.

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the course.

### COURSE EVALUATION

Mini assignments: 10%  
Case Studies and  
Presentations: 30% (5% x 6)  
Country Report: 30%  
Final Exam: 30%

### Assignments (10%)

Throughout the course, you will be assigned a particular reading and/or questions to be answered. The response to these will be due at the beginning of the following class. On the days these are due, you will be responsible for handing in your neatly written or typed comments. There will be no extensions. These assignments should consist of, on

average, a paragraph or two. Of course, you may submit as much material as you wish. There will be 8 of these assigned throughout the course. You will receive one mark for each assignment that you hand in. If you complete and hand in all 8 assignments, you will receive an additional 2 marks for a total of 10 marks, or 10% of your course mark. Although each of these assignments is worth only 1%, this is an opportunity to boost your overall percentage in the course. The motivation behind these assignments is that you will come prepared for the class in which we will be discussing your ideas. Students will be selected to initiate discussion. Your assignment will be returned to you in the following class period. It is highly recommended that you complete all assignments as their content will be on the exam.

### **Country Report (30%)**

The general purpose of your paper is to provide a critical overview of management theory, policy, and performance in regards to water in a country of your choice (the exception being Canada). Choose a country of interest! Your paper should consider the specific water resource profiles associated with your country (i.e., a factual portrait, including availability, distribution, rates of use, etc.). Use the course structure and content to help you decide what may be of utility/significance. A starting point might be the relevance of the UN Decade for Water and/or Millennium Goals to your country. Aspects you may wish to consider include relevant federal water policies and legislation, agriculture, industry, ecology, water relations with other countries, issues of inequality, water security, health, vulnerable human populations, and so-on. Be sure to justify the aspects you choose (i.e., how do these choices strengthen your arguments and, thus, your paper?). It is up to you to ensure that you clearly identify the specific constraints and opportunities that face water resources and their management in your country, and to demonstrate how your country fits within current water resource theory, policy, and practice.

Essentially, you have a good deal of freedom within some specific restraints. The term paper will be no longer than 12 double-spaced pages (3000 words) and is due at the beginning of class, 6 December, 2005. You will undoubtedly find a large amount of data, however, the emphasis is on how you select, utilize, and integrate these.

The paper will be accompanied by a fully-referenced bibliography demonstrating the use of a variety of appropriate printed and electronic sources of information.

### **Case Study Presentations (5% each x 6 topics)**

A case study is a scaled-down replication of a real experience or series of events, with ample problems or issues to generate a good discussion. These brief assignments and presentations offer the opportunity to stay on top of your country report term paper. On each of the days on which the case studies are to be presented, there is a corresponding general topic (see Course Schedule). For each of the listed topics, each student will present a specific case study from your chosen country which relates to the lecture topic. For example, on 15 November, we will be covering the broad topic of "Water and Health". Each student has the freedom to choose one small aspect, issue, or story from your country that relates to this topic. You must hand in the written version of your presentation notes as these are worth half (2.5%) of your mark. You must choose 6 of the 7 case study topics.

### **Final Exam (30%)**

A three hour exam will be given at the end of the term, covering all course materials. Students should check the Registrar's Examination Timetable for the day, time and location of the exam. Please note Special Examination Policy, below.

All **written** assignments will be graded as follows:

#### Format

- Structure (introduction, synthesis, analysis and conclusion)
- Clear thesis statement expressing in a nutshell what the reader can expect to read in the discussion
- Acknowledgement of all sources of information

#### Style

- General readability
- Grammar and spelling
- Appropriate headings, sub-headings, illustrations and page numbering
- Conciseness

#### Content

- Relevant and up to date material and sources used and indicated
- Use of examples
- Using a variety of appropriate sources in-depth academic research

#### Process

- Synthesis: demonstrating a knowledge and understanding of current debates and issues
- Analysis: presenting and justifying your views and conclusions on the debates and issues

All **oral presentations** will be graded as follows:

#### Format

- Structure (opening statements, discussion and closure)
- An introduction to capture audience attention

#### Style

- General audibility
- Appropriate use of visual aids (overheads, posters, videos, slides etc.)
- Conciseness

#### Content

- Well researched
- Use of examples
- Using a variety of appropriate sources in-depth academic research

#### Process

- Synthesis: demonstrating a knowledge and understanding of current debates and issues
- Analysis: presenting and justifying your views and conclusions on the debates and issues

### **ITEMS TO NOTE:**

1. UWO Occupational Health and Safety requires that all students are required to evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated. This is imperative, not an option.

2. The mark awarded by an instructor in a course at UWO is only final when students receive it from the Registrar, and even then they can be changed on receipt by the Registrar of a Marks Revision Form. In all cases, the final marks are not final until the department chair has signed off.

3. Any student who fails to write an examination or submit an assignment on the scheduled date and time will be given zero on that examination.

The Special Examination policy is as follows:

A special examination is any examination other than the regularly scheduled examination. Special exams will be allowed only on receipt of medical documentation verifying a serious illness that kept the student from writing the exam as originally scheduled. Such documentation is strictly confidential and kept in the student's file. In the case of missing a final exam for documented medical reasons, a special exam will be set within thirty days.

Special exams will not be granted for occasions such as employment interviews, weddings, bar mitzvahs, family reunions, vacations, misreading the exam timetable, or oversleeping. Neither will special exams be granted in order to facilitate transportation arrangements, such as booking flights for home for Christmas or summer vacations. It is the policy to discourage informal arrangements by faculty which circumvent this regulation."

4. Please note carefully the following statement:

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar) and will be treated as such. If in any doubt as to the nature of this offence, consult your instructor or the Dartmouth handbook on "Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgement" available in the library." Turnitin.com software is highly recommended for students who wish to screen their work for plagiarism prior to final submission. This software will be used by the instructor and department in cases of plagiarism and appeal.

5. Counseling. Students requiring counseling about the Geography program and related matters (e.g. appeals, letters of permission, special permission) should contact the Department of Geography, UWO.

6. Assignments

- Students are responsible for keeping a copy of their work until they have received a final grade for the assignment
- Do not hand in your assignments by slipping them under my door
- Deadlines are absolute, no extensions will be considered and late work will not be graded, except as permitted by UWO policy for special examinations (see above).

7. Different disciplines require different styles to be used for footnotes, references and quotations. If you have not yet become familiar with a style, you may want to look at the

following on the UWO Geography website regarding essays and referencing:

[http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/undergrad\\_prog/essay\\_guide/essay\\_guidelines.htm](http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/undergrad_prog/essay_guide/essay_guidelines.htm)

It is important that you consistently use one style throughout each assignment.

8. Correspondence

- Phone and e-mail messages will be checked when the instructor is on campus only. Be cautioned that you while you will get a response, it may not be immediate.
- All e-mail messages must have the course name or number in the subject heading or they may not be read.

**GRADING GUIDELINES:**

Grade descriptions

A+	90-100	one could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	superior work which is clearly above the average
B	70-79	good work, meeting all the requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	fail