

PHIL 5960 Sec 001
WATER ISSUES:
PHILOSOPHICAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS
Fall 2000 Tue 6.00-8.50 EESAT 320 A

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

In this course we will explore different aspects of the rising tide of water-problems, varying from water-scarcity, quality and quantity, restoration of riparian areas, to the cultural perceptions of water.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Lectures, Student Presentations, Discussion, Videos, Guest Speakers

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- 25% Class Presentation, either about the assigned literature of that day or about a topic of one's own interest.
- 10% Journal of critical reflections based upon the reading material, class presentations and discussions
- 25% Class Presentation, either in the form of a small Group Research Project, or another "solo" presentation
- 40% Final Paper, due in Finals week

LITERATURE

Besides handouts we will read the following books:

- Ivan Illich, *H2O and the Waters of Forgetfulness: Reflections on the Historicity of Stuff* (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 1985)
- Sandra Postel, *Pillar of Sand: Can the Irrigation Miracle Last?* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999)
- Sandra Postel, *Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997)
- Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985)

Throughout the semester, we will look at different videos concerning water. This will include the four part CBS Documentary on the History of Water in the West, and two Rio Grande videos:

- Culture, Water, & Money: The Passion of the Frontier (1997) (Luz Aeterna Productions; The River Pierce Foundation.

READING AND CLASS SCHEDULE

- WEEK I:** T Aug 29 *Hydrology and Watersheds*
Handout: Excerpts from: Luna B. Leopold, *Water, Rivers and Creeks*
(University Science Books, 1997)
- WEEK II:** T Sept5 *Introduction: Water Quality Issues*
Handout: Excerpts from: Paul S. Giller and Bjorn Malmqvist, *The Biology of Streams and Rivers* (Oxford University Press, 1998)
- WEEK III:** T Sept12 *Water Quality Issues (Cont)*
Ivan Illich, *H2O and the Waters of Forgetfulness*
- WEEK IV:** T Sept 19 *Water Quality Issues (Cont)*
Sandra Postel, *Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity*
- WEEK V:** T Sept 26 *Water Quality Issues (Cont)*
Sandra Postel, *Pillar of Sand: Can the Irrigation Miracle Last?* Pp. 1-133.
- WEEK VI:** T Oct 3 *Water Quality Issues (Cont)*
Sandra Postel, *Pillar of Sand: Can the Irrigation Miracle Last?* Pp. 133-263
- WEEK VII:** T Oct 10 *Water Quality Issues (Cont)*
Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire*, pp. 1-143.
- WEEK VIII:** T Oct 17 *Water Quality Issues (Cont)*
Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire*, pp. 143-337.
- WEEK IX:** T Oct 24 *Urban Ecology Systems*
James P. Collins, e.a., "A New Urban Ecology" in:
American Scientist Vol 88, Sept-Oct 2000.

Nancy B. Grimm, "Longterm Studies of Urban Ecology Systems" in:
BioScience Vol. 50 No. 7, July 2000.
- WEEK X:** T Oct 31 *Entries to a Beginning of a Water Ethic?*
Luna B. Leopold, "Ethos, Equity, and the Water Resource: The 1990 Abel Woman Lecture," in: *Environment*, Vol 32, Number 2, March 1990.

David Lewis Feldman, *Water Resources Management: In Search of an Environmental Ethic* (Baltimore: John Hopkins Univ Press, 1991), Chs 1, 2, 9.

- WEEK XI:** T Nov 7 *Rio Grande Water Issues*
Guest Speaker: Sue Watts, Dept of Biol Sciences, University of Texas
El Paso, "Rio Grande: Living river or dead ditch?"
- Reading: Katarina Rogers, "Environmental Conflict and Cooperation
between Mexico and the United States" in: Bøchler, e.a., (Eds.):
*Environmental Degradation as a Cause of War (Kriegsursache
Umweltzerstörung*, Vol. II. Röegger Verlag: Zurich, Chur 1996
- WEEK XII:** T Nov 14 *Cultural, Literary and Philosophical Aspects of Water*
Dogen, The Mountains and Rivers Sutra.
- LaoTse, Excerpts from the *Tao te Ching*.
- WEEK XIII** T Nov 21 *Cultural, Literary and Philosophical Aspects of Water (Cont)*
Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge*, pp. 5-41, 141-158
- Barry Lopez, *River Notes*, pp. 129-138
- Ann Zwinger, *Run, River, Run*, pp. 257-269
- WEEK XIV:** T Nov 28 *Sustainable Water Use in Agriculture, Industry and at Home*
Guest Speaker:
Anthony Weston
- Reading:
Bill Mollison, *Permaculture*, Chapters 1,2, and 7.
- Paul Hawken, et. al., *Natural Capitalism*, Chapters 1 and 11.
- WEEK XV:** T Dec 5 *Summary*
- WEEK XVI** T Dec 12 *Final Exam Week: Final paper due.*