



ERS 365
Water Governance

Course Outline, W 2021 Term

Course Instructor: Dr. Kelsey Leonard, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo;
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Teaching Assistant: Emily Bass

Office Hours: Online

Course Location and Time: ONLINE; Mondays 1:30 PM-03:20PM (Virtual Classroom, recorded)

LEARN: Primary platform for course delivery - frequent class announcements; assignments submitted to LEARN Dropbox; discussion posts.

Course Description:

This course examines the concept of water governance whereby students will explore the development and implementation of water policies in relation to major themes and debates associated with global water crises across regional, national, and international scales. The climate crisis has prompted a global shift in ideas and deeper examination of the rights, equity, participation, and relationality of communities with respect to water and sanitation. Through various case studies, students will gain a deeper understanding of a range of social processes influencing water governance including claims for not only human rights but rights of nature. Utilizing international review processes students will prepare country reports on water challenges and assess governmental progress towards addressing or resolving them.

In terms of **learning objectives**, following completion of this course, students should have:

- Understanding of global water governance challenges
- Skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate global water governance practices and implementation of the human right to water

- Current knowledge of Indigenous approaches to water governance and the protection of Indigenous water rights
- Developed key insights on Canada’s water governance institutions and frameworks
- Real-world understanding of water governance at regional, national, and international scales
- Improved research, writing and critical thinking skills.

The Course Evaluation Framework

ERS 365	Due	Value
Water Reflections	Weekly	20% (2% each, 10 posts)
Lead Discussion Presentation	Ongoing	15%
Mapping Water Assignment	February 8	15%
Film Review	March 1	10%
UPR Report Outline	March 8	5%
UPR Report Draft	March 29	10%
Final Universal Periodic Review Report	April 23	25%

Assignment Details

Weekly Water Reflection – 20%

Students will submit weekly reading reflections through discussion board posts on the LEARN website. The water reflection assignment is designed to help students identify and reflect on key water governance concepts covered in the readings.

Lead Discussion Presentation – 15%

Each student will be responsible for co-leading class discussion of the week’s course readings ONCE during the term. Students will sign up for discussion during the first week of class. Students will prepare specific questions regarding the readings and be able to introduce the water governance themes for the week to the class. Students will provide a 1-page handout for their classmates on the readings with questions for further discussion. Presentations should be 5 minutes in length.

Mapping Water Assignment- 15%

Students will explore the meaning of water by venturing out into their community to explore the waterscape closest to them. Water governance depends on understanding our individual and collective relationship to water. Mapping affords a powerful lens through which to understand our current hydro-imagination of borders and boundaries. More detailed assignment information will be provided in lecture.

Film Review – 10%

Students will submit a reflective writing assignment on one film watched during the term. Students will explore real-life implications of failed water governance and reflect on water management solutions for future security. More detailed assignment information will be provided in lecture.

Universal Periodic Review Report (Outline, Draft, Final) – 40%

Your final assignment will be a country report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Students will individually draft a report utilizing General Comment No. 15: The Right to Water and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to examine water justice issues covering one of the countries slated to be reviewed in the next UPR session. The report must be at least 2800 words in length. Students will be evaluated based on outline (5%), rough draft (10%), and final submission (25%).

COURSE READINGS

- Course Textbook:
 - DA McDonald, S Spronk and D Chavez (eds). 2020. **Public Water and Covid-19: Dark Clouds and Silver Linings**, Municipal Services Project (Kingston), Transnational Institute (Amsterdam) and Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) (Buenos Aires)
- All additional required readings can be acquired and downloaded through the LEARN system and are identified in this course timetable below.

Content Outline by Topic (Course Schedule)

Week	Unit/Topic	Readings/Activities (TBD)
Week 1		
Jan 11	Introduction + Water Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction; Review of Syllabus
Week 2		
Jan 18	Water + Justice	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 1, Introduction: Why Public Water Matters • Ch. 2, Covid-19 and Structural Inequalities: Class, Gender, Race and Water Justice • Maracle, L. (2016). <i>Water. Downstream: Reimagining water</i>, 33-38. <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Quiz & Weekly Water Reflection
Week 3		
Jan 25	Water + Human Rights	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch.3 Are We All in This Together? Covid-19 and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation • General Comment No. 15: The Right to Water • Basic Facts about the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (Nov 2008)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooper, J. (2014). "Universal Periodic Review: A Potent Process for the Realization of Human Rights in Indigenous Homelands". <i>Cultural Survival Quarterly</i>, 38(2). <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection UPR Country Selection Due
Week 4		
Feb 1	Water + Indigenous Rights	<p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Lecture – Cultural Survival <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taylor, K. S., Longboat, S., & Grafton, R. Q. (2019). Whose rules? A water justice critique of the OECD's 12 principles on water governance. <i>Water</i>, 11(4), 809. <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> (2007) <i>OECD Water Governance Principles</i> <i>Treaty 3 Nibi (Water) Declaration and Principles</i> <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection
Week 5		
Feb 8	Water + Canada	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 22, Sober Second Thoughts: Covid-19 and Water Privatization in Canada Ch. 27, Blue Communities in Quebec: Upholding The Highest Water Standards in Uncertain Times Bakker, K., & Cook, C. (2011). Water governance in Canada: Innovation and fragmentation. <i>Water Resources Development</i>, 27(02), 275-289. <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection Mapping Water Assignment Due
Break - Feb 13 -21		
Week 6		
Feb 22	Water + Access No Live Lecture	<p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Screening 'There's Something in the Water' <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 17, Nigeria's Informal Water Providers: Filling In The Public Gaps Ch. 11, Defending Public Water in Times Of Crisis: "Popular Water Government" in Caracas, Venezuela Rebecca J. McMillan Ch. 13, An Opportunity to Pause and Reimagine: Jamaica's Public Water After Covid-19 <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection
Week 7		
Mar 1	Water + Urban City	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 19, The Long Road Out of Crisis: (Re)building Trust in Flint's Public Water from Poisoning to Pandemic

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 21, Cape Town’s Crisis-Ridden Response to Covid-19 <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection Film Review Due
Week 8		
Mar 8	Water + Affordability	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 5, Water Shutoff Moratoria in the United States: The Role of Cities and States Ch. 7, A Beacon of Hope at a Time of Crisis? Pursuit of Affordable Public Water in Baltimore <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection UPR Report Outline Due
Week 9		
Mar 15	No Class – University Break	No Class – University Break
Week 10		
Mar 22	Water + Sanitation	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meehan, K., et al. (2020). Exposing the myths of household water insecurity in the global North: A critical review. <i>Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water</i>, 7(6), e1486. Bogler, A., et al., 2020. Rethinking wastewater risks and monitoring in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. <i>Nature Sustainability</i>, pp.1-10. <i>SDG 6, Water and Sanitation</i> <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection
Week 11		
Mar 29	Water + Technology	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> te Wierik, S. A., Gupta, J., Cammeraat, E. L., & Artzy-Randrup, Y. A. (2020). The need for green and atmospheric water governance. <i>Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water</i>, 7(2), e1406. <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Water Reflection UPR Report Draft Due
Week 12		
Apr 5	Water + Personhood	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> O'Donnell, E. L., and J. Talbot-Jones. 2018. Creating legal rights for rivers: lessons from Australia, New Zealand, and India. <i>Ecology and Society</i> 23(1):7. Eckstein, G., D’Andrea, A., Marshall, V., O’Donnell, E., Talbot-Jones, J., Curran, D., & O’Byran, K. (2019). Conferring legal personality on the world’s rivers: A brief intellectual assessment. <i>Water International</i>, 44(6-7), 804-829. <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Weekly Water Reflection</p>

Week 13		
Apr 12	UPR Workshop	UPR Workshop
Final Exam Week		
Apr 23	Final UPR Report DUE Friday, April 23 by 11:59PM on LEARN	

Late Policy for All Assignments

This course is designed to give you exposure to life beyond the university. Consequently, a strict penalty of 10% (absolute, not of earned grade) per 24-hour period including weekends will be assigned to late work. All assignments are due to the relevant dropbox on LEARN no later than 11:30 p.m. on the day they are due.

Intellectual Property:

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual

property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

Names and Pronouns: If you go by a different name or gender pronoun than the one under which you are officially enrolled, please inform me. Students are expected to respectfully refer to each other by preferred names and pronouns.

Recording Lectures: Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: Facebook, Twitter, TikTok etc., is strictly prohibited.

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. Please note that help is available. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services> is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more. If you think you are experiencing mental health issues, please see this website for guidance and support: <https://uwaterloo.ca/environment/get-mental-health-support-when-you-need-it>