

Environmental Studies 129 – Water Policy in the Western U.S.

Class Days/Times: Wednesdays, 1:30pm – 4:15pm

Location: Clark Building 224

Instructor: Costanza Rampini, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm via Zoom, or by appointment

Zoom link: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/7584683631>

Please email me 24 hours in advance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: Water, or lack of it, is the defining characteristic of development in the Western United States. Using multiple analytical frameworks, including history, law, economics, environmental science, and sociology, we will investigate the interrelationships of key policies, players, and projects involved in Western water. More specifically, we will critically examine how important federal, state, and local water policies arose and how they affect different stakeholder groups (e.g., irrigators, environmentalists, indigenous peoples, the local citizenry, government entities, public water resource agencies). We will also learn about how stakeholder values and corresponding water policies have changed, or failed to change, over time. Skills you will develop or enhance in this class include writing, research, oral presentation, and critical thinking in the context of policy analysis.

Over the semester, you will:

- gain a working familiarity of major Western water policies and their underlying philosophies;
- learn how these policies have been applied through case studies;
- have an opportunity to explore in-depth a water policy of personal interest; and
- practice communicating your findings to others, orally and in writing.

Generally, we will meet weekly for lectures, in-class exercises and discussions. Outside of class homework assignments will include completing course readings and being prepared to discuss course materials, conducting web-based research, writing short essays, leading class discussions, online quizzes, working in small groups, and preparing and giving a presentation using a computer and presentation software.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: The following texts will form the basis of class discussions and assignments.

- 1) THE GREAT THIRST: CALIFORNIANS AND WATER—A HISTORY. Revised Edition. Norris Hundley, Jr. 2001. University of California Press: Berkeley.
- 2) SUSTAINABLE WATER: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FROM CALIFORNIA. Allison Lassiter, Ed., 2015. University of California Press: Oakland.
Available online via the MLK Library website.

Other readings will be assigned and available via the class Canvas website under “Files > Readings”.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Grades for the course are based on the following assignments. Assignments are due at the beginning of class, unless otherwise stated.

- *Homework & class participation (20%)*: Students are expected to attend lectures, come to class prepared to engage with readings and class material, and actively participate in class discussions and activities. Student participation will be evaluated via online reading quizzes available on Canvas, as well as the submission of write-ups linked to in-class activities.
- *Reading Summary Presentation (Group grade, 10%)*: In groups of 2, students will lead 30-minutes of a class session by summarizing readings and facilitating class discussions and activities.
- *Urban Stream Analysis & Presentation (15%)*: In groups of 2, write a 1,500- to 2,000-word essay about the issues facing an urban stream in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- *Midterm Exam (20%)*: Students will answer a series of multiple choice and short-answer questions to demonstrate their understanding of topics and concepts discussed in the readings and during class.
- *Group Policy Presentation (Group grade, 15%)*: In groups of 3 or 4, students will present in-class the research they have done for their policy paper.
- *Group Policy Paper (Group grade, 20%)*: In groups of 3 or 4, students will apply what they have learned in class to write a 3,000- to 3,500-word essay that analyzes an existing water-related program or policy in the West at the municipal, regional, state or multi-state level.
- *Extra Credit (up to 3%)*: The instructor **may** assign some optional extra credit assignments, which may include attending water-related events and watching class-related documentaries. Students can earn a maximum of 30 points in extra credit assignments, for a total of 3% towards their final class grade.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point scale:

A	92.5 to 100 percent	B-	79.5 to 82.4 percent	D+	66.5 to 69.4 percent
A-	89.5 to 92.4 percent	C+	76.5 to 79.4 percent	D	62.5 to 66.4 percent
B+	86.5 to 89.4 percent	C	72.5 to 76.4 percent	D-	59.5 to 62.4 percent
B	82.5 to 86.4 percent	C-	69.5 to 72.4 percent	F	0 to 59.4 percent

TIME EXPECTATIONS:

At SJSU, students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one-hour of in-person class time. Because this is a 3-unit course, you can expect to spend at least **6 hours per week outside of class** completing class-related assignments and readings. Assignments include analysis of one books; library and field research, site photography, and local interviews; 3 written assignments, and 2 power-point presentations. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 6-hours of work outside the classroom. **Careful time management is required** to keep up and

succeed.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments, unless announced otherwise in class, are due on the date and time specified in the course's Canvas website and the Class Schedule. Late assignments are assessed a 20% penalty per each 24-hour period. Illness and extenuating family or personal circumstances are the only allowable excuses for late work. Extensions need to be requested in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the assignment due date and time. Assignments submitted or exams taken more than seven full days late will not be graded and will earn zero course points.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Cell phones and all instant-messaging programs must be turned off prior to class. NO text messaging or phone use is permitted in the classroom and laptops may only be used for taking notes. This will be strictly enforced.

OFFICE VISITS AND COMMUNICATION: I encourage all students to come visit me at least once during office hours to talk about the course, related environmental studies courses, and any other topic related to the field. It is especially important that you communicate with me, preferably in person, if you are experiencing a problem that is preventing you from performing well in the course.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE: Email to a professor should be treated like a business letter. Please follow these tips when emailing your professor: <http://web.wellesley.edu/SocialComputing/Netiquette/netiquetteprofessor.html>. Emails that do not follow this "netiquette" will not receive a response.

SJSU WRITING CENTER: The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall and is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and are well trained to assist all students at all levels become better writers. The Writing Center website is www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings & assignments need to be completed *before* class. For example, you should read Ch. 1 & 2 of Hundley (2001) before coming to class on 9/4. This schedule may be amended, with fair notice, to accommodate fieldtrips, guest lectures, & current events.

Date	Description	Readings & Assignments
Aug. 21	Course Introduction & Fieldtrip to Guadalupe River Park	
Aug. 28	I. Water Resources: A Review II. Valley Water Group Reading Summary & Discussion Assigned	One Water Plan (2016), Ch. 1 & 5
Sept. 4	Early Human Influences on the Watershed: California's Experience	Hundley (2001), Chapter 1 & 2 Discussion led by Group 1
Sept. 11	Early Water Rights, Institutional Arrangements, and Players Urban Stream Analysis Paper & Presentation Assigned	Hundley (2001), Chapter 3 Discussion led by Group 2
Sept. 18	The Transformation of California: Los Angeles & San Francisco	Hundley (2001), Chapter 4 Discussion led by Group 3
Sept. 25	The Great Projects (Part I)	Hundley (2001), Chapter 5, up to p.276 Discussion led by Group 4
Oct. 2	I. The Great Project (Part II) II. Dam Decommissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hundley (2001), Chapter 5, pp.276-302• Escriva-Bou et al. (2017)• Graber (2022) Discussion led by Group 5
Oct. 9	I. Visit CoGen Plant on SJSU Campus & Water-Energy-Climate Nexus Meet at CoGen Plant on campus at 1:30p II. Midterm Review	Lassiter (2015), Ch. 2 See Exam Study Guide on Canvas
Oct. 16	MIDTERM EXAM	

Oct. 23	I. <i>Guest lecture by Deb Kramer from Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (1:30-2p)</i> II. Anadromous Fish II. Policy Paper Assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lassiter (2015), Chapter 12 • Read Simons (2020) & watch video at https://baynature.org/2020/06/24/did-salmon-always-live-in-san-jose/ • Listen to Cruz Guevarra et al. (2023) here: https://dcs.megaphone.fm/KQINC1724950656.mp3?key=a2b799ce780bc1ce0eb240a6685841dd&request_event_id=8a65326f-ce07-44cf-8442-4fa3a8bde09f&source=3 <p>Each group must email me their preferred paper topic by Monday 10/28 at 12pm</p>
Oct. 30	<i>Urban Stream Analysis & Presentation</i> Paper Due at 11:59pm 10/29, Presentations in class on 10/30	
Nov. 6	I. <i>Guest lecture by Steve Holmes from South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition (1:30-2:15pm)</i> II. Water Reuse and Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lassiter (2015), Chapter 10 • Reinhart (2023) • Becker (2023) • Warren (2018) • Desalination Fact Sheet 2015 <p>Discussion led by Group 6</p>
Nov. 13	Agricultural Water Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanak et al. 2017(pp. 1-20 & 37-52) • Lassiter (2015), Chapter 11 • Charles 2022 <p>Discussion led by Group 7</p>
Nov. 20	Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Special Issue of <i>California Agriculture</i> (2018) • DWR's Groundwater Management Program 2023 • Interview with A. Renteria (2018) • Arax 2021 <p>Discussion led by Group 8</p>
Nov. 27	No Class -Thanksgiving Holiday	
Dec. 4	Final Group Presentations & Class Wrap Up	See Canvas for guidelines
Dec. 13	Final Policy Paper due on Canvas at 6PM	