



English 2262G

570

Winter 2018

Water and Civilization: Literature, Ecology, Activism

Professor: Ian Rae

Office: FB 107

Email: irae@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00pm-1:00pm

Ext: 4514

Class Times and Location(s): Tuesday 9:30am-10:30am (LH 105C)
Thursday 9:30am-11:30am (W 170)

Course Description:

This course examines non-fictional accounts of the relationship between water (its management and mythology) and the development of diverse civilizations. This course alternates between historical examples from around the world and a specific focus on the Great Lakes Basin, including a group project for improving the ecology of the Thames.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both of English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or English 1901E, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): None

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

*ENGL 2262G SYLLABUS
WATER AND CIVILIZATION: LITERATURE, ECOLOGY, ACTIVISM
KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
PROF. IAN RAE
WINTER 2018*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Ian Rae
Office: FB-107
Office Hour: Thursdays, 12-1 p.m.
Telephone: (519) 433-3491 Ext. 4514.
Email: irae@uwo.ca

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., NJ '327E.
Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Y '392.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

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NECESSARY PREREQUISITES

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DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

“How does water shape us? How do we shape water?” – Edward Burtynsky

Our bodies are mostly water. Our planet is mostly water. We live in the basin of the greatest freshwater system in the world. Yet this abundance of water in Canada means that the one indispensable resource for sustaining life on planet earth receives little critical attention until a catastrophe—flooding, drought, aquifer poisoning, infrastructure collapse—occurs. At this point, the vital importance of water to human health, sanitation, transportation, industry, and

even the virtual world of electronic communications, becomes alarming clear. Modern cities depend on water but they can also be destroyed by it, as recent events in Windsor, Houston, and Bangladesh make clear. In this course, we will go beyond the momentary news headlines to develop a historical overview of the ways in which civilizations rise and fall according to their treatment of water resources. We will then use these historical insights to engage in contemporary debates about climate change and the redevelopment of the Thames River system in downtown London. Our core texts will be books, articles, and documentary films that raise awareness about the crucial water issues that will shape our futures. We will also develop a group response to London's "One River" campaign, with particular emphasis on the potential contribution of the King's campus to the river system.

OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate contemporary ecological challenges--such as climate change, catastrophic flooding, drought, pollution of aquifers—and the way that these challenges impact cities.
2. To underscore historical connections between the human treatment of water as a resource and the rise and fall of civilizations.
3. To develop a critical understanding of non-fictional narrative strategies in prose and in documentary film.
4. To improve the ecology and human enjoyment of the Thames River through a group project.

REQUIRED TEXTS

ENGL 2262 Course Pack

Riley, John. *The Once and Future Great Lakes: An Ecological History*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013.

Solomon, Steven. *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

LECTURE MATERIALS

After each class, I will post my PowerPoint slides online for your consideration. I will not post or distribute my lecture notes. Students are required to attend class or obtain lecture notes from other students.

EVALUATION

Response Papers: 30% (3 X 10%)

Term Paper (2500 words, due April 10th): 30%

Group Project (due April 3rd): 30%

Participation: 5%

Attendance: 5%

The Participation mark is not an attendance mark. It is designed to reward students who make frequent and valuable contributions to class. Students who do not participate will not receive credit in this category.

TERM PAPER

The term paper (2500 words) submitted in this course must demonstrate your ability to analyze and synthesize course readings and secondary sources. The paper must focus on one reading from the syllabus. It should also incorporate material from at least three secondary sources (i.e. scholarly resources beyond the assigned readings). You may choose your topic and thesis according to your interests and expertise. However, if you are uncomfortable choosing your own topic, we can discuss and develop your ideas during my office hour. You may also use the questions listed alongside the readings as starting points for your papers.

Essays should adhere to the standard format of the Modern Language Association (MLA). Copies of *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* are available in the DB Weldon and King's libraries. A summary of key citation issues is also available at: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Essays for this class must be typed and double-spaced on 8.5" X 11" paper. Essays can be printed on both sides of the page. Binders and plastic covers are discouraged.

We will discuss expectations for essay writing in class on January 30th.

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.”

GRADING GRID FOR ESSAYS

1. Introduction and thesis: 20%
2. Evidence of research, engagement with primary and secondary sources: 25%
3. Argumentation: 25%
4. Grammar and style: 20%
5. Conclusion: 10%

LATE POLICY

The term paper is due in class on April 10th. Essays submitted after the due date will receive a penalty of 1% per day. Note that a weekend counts as one day. Requests for extensions will only be granted if the request is submitted in writing one week prior to the due date.

RESPONSE PAPERS

At three intervals over the course of the semester, students will be asked to compare the ecological, social, and formal concerns of documentary films to their recent course readings.

These comparative pieces will be less thesis-driven than the final term paper. Rather, they will be opportunities to compare and contrast the form and content of the films and the non-fiction prose. The films will be screened in the Thursday classes and the response paper is due the following Tuesday.

GROUP PROJECT

The Group Project will require students to assess the key documents in London's "One River" master plan for the redevelopment of the Thames River system in London, including both the river and the built and natural environments adjacent to it (<https://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/EAs/Pages/One-River-EA.aspx>). The group will compose a formal response to the campaign's proposals, which will be sent to the City of London. This group assessment will take into consideration the ecological concerns of the Thames River Clear Water Revival (<http://www.thamesrevival.ca/>) and the "One River" Environmental Impact Assessment (https://getinvolved.london.ca/application/files/1415/0032/5278/Terms_of_Reference.pdf), as well as the aesthetic and urban lifestyle concerns of the "Back to the River" campaign (<http://backtotheriver.ca/>).

ASSIGNED READINGS [DRAFT VERSION]

Jan. 9: Course overview and "Water in the News" exercise.

Please bring to class one news article that addresses a water issue which intrigues and/or concerns you. E.g. https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/aug/29/hurricane-harvey-manmade-climate-disaster-world-catastrophe?CMP=share_btn_tw

Jan. 11: Solomon. "The Indispensable Resource." Discussion of "One River" group project.

Jan. 16: Solomon. "Rivers, Irrigation, and the Earliest Empires."

Jan. 18: Solomon. "Seafaring, Trade, and the Making of the Mediterranean World."

Jan 23: Solomon. "Islam, Deserts, and the Destiny of History's Most Water-Fragile Civilization."

Jan. 25: CP: Stewart, Andrew. "Water and Land." *Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province*. Ed. Marit K. Munson and Susan Jamieson. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013. 24-34; CP: Oberholtzer, Cath. "The Living Landscape." *Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province*. Ed. Marit K. Munson and Susan Jamieson. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013. 153-64.

Jan 30: Riley. Introduction and "The Land Beyond Memory: Before 1500."

Feb. 1: Field Trip to the Museum of Ontario Archaeology in London.

Feb. 6: Solomon. "The Grand Canal and the Flourishing of Chinese Civilization."

Feb. 8: Response Paper 1: How do the themes in the “Water” episode of Iain Stewart’s *How the Earth Changed History* relate to the readings thus far?

Feb. 13: Solomon. “Steam Power, Industry, and the Age of the British Empire.”

Feb. 15: CP: Giblett, Rod. “Toronto: ‘Set in malarial lakeside swamps.’” *Cities and Wetlands*.

Feb. 20 and 22: Reading Week

Feb. 27: Riley. “Manufacturing the Land: The 1800s.”

Mar. 1: Solomon. “Giant Dams, Water Abundance, and the Rise of Global Society.”

Mar. 6: Guest Lecture: Representative of London’s “Back to the River” Campaign.

Mar. 8: Solomon. “From Have to Have-Not: Mounting Water Distress in Asia’s Rising Giant.”

Mar. 13: Solomon. “Water: The New Oil.”

Mar. 15: Response Paper 2: How do the themes in Jennifer Baichwal and Edward Burtynsky’s film *Watermark* (http://www.edwardburtynsky.com/site_contents/Films/Watermark_Film.html) relate to the readings since Feb. 13th?

Mar. 20: Riley. “The True North: Three Centuries On.”

Mar. 22: Riley. “Growing Cities, Changing Climates: The Next Conversion.”

Mar. 27: Solomon. “Opportunity from Scarcity: The New Politics of Water in the Industrial Democracies.”

Mar. 29: Riley. “Restoration: A New Native Landscape.”

Apr. 3: Neimanis, Astrida. “Introduction: Figuring Bodies of Water.” *Bodies of Water: Posthuman Feminist Phenomenology*. Group Project submission due in class.

Apr. 5: Response Paper 3: What are the narrative strategies informing Leonardo DiCaprio’s *Before the Flood* (<https://archive.org/details/youtube-90CkXVF-Q8M/>)?

Apr. 10: Conclusions and Thames River Rally. Term Paper due in class.

**Faculty Office Hours:**

Faculty office hours can be found on King's homepage under the menu heading Current Students (<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/planning/faculty-office-hours/>) and are also posted on the bulletin board across from the Administrative Assistants Office on the second floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). Student Medical Certificate (SMC)

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Tests/Examinations:

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Support Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Accessibility Services (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The website for Academic Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom:

King's University College at The University of Western Ontario acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See

https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf

Inappropriate use of laptops [or smart phones] during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.”

Statement on Academic Offences:

King’s is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://turnitin.uwo.ca/>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Copyright re: Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright . Faculty Members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a Faculty Member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student’s answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student’s written permission.

(Commercial use of Course material - <http://umd.edu/legal/commercial.html>)

Mailbox re Submission of Late Essays/Assignments ONLY:

Only late essays/assignments not handed in at class may be dropped off in the drop box, located between the inner doors of the Cardinal Carter Library. Please inform your students that essays dropped into the mailbox will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. Essays should be placed in an envelope addressed to the professor with the course code and student number clearly indicated.

Class Cancellations:

All reported class cancellations are posted at: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/outages-service-interruptions/>