COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2023

ENR 5451
WATER POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Schedule: Mo We 12:45 – 2:05 PM; Ag Admin Bldg Room 246

Instructor:

Dr. Sayeed Mehmood
Office: 469C Kottman Hall
Email: Mehmood.9
Office Hours: Please contact me by email and we will set up an in-person, phone, or zoom meeting.

Textbook:

None

NOTE: My lecture will be based on a variety of materials. If I am using slides, I will upload them to Carmen. However, slides are obviously not going to have much detail. You are responsible for completing the assigned readings and do additional research.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Water is a necessary resource but also under many circumstances, a scarce one. It is this scarcity that produces the conditions for the emergence of conflict among potential users, hence requiring the design of institutions—or rules—that seek to accomplish an efficient and equitable utilization of water. This class examines such institutions at various levels—state, federal, and international—and analyzes how they affect water access and use in different areas (agriculture, energy, etc.). Students in the class will also engage in a careful examination of the sources of conflict and cooperation among water stakeholders on a regional and global scale. The main goal of the course is to foster the students’ capacity to assess how water-related conflicts can be prevented through the design and implementation of relevant policies.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to encourage and reward student participation and critical thinking. By the end of the semester, students are not only expected to understand the complex nature of forest and public land-related issues, but also to be tolerant and respectful of opinions that may not agree with their own.

Specific learning objectives of this course are as follows:
1. Understand the issues related to water quality, policies governing water resources, and administration of such policies.
2. Learn about the potential and limitations of both free markets and governments in dealing with water management problems.
3. Learn how to analyze policies and develop policy recommendations.
4. Develop critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes
There will be a total of 2 quizzes, worth 25 points each, over the course of the semester. We will use Carmen for administering the quizzes. These will be timed, with no retakes. Typically, the quizzes must be completed by 11:59 PM on designated Mondays and will cover materials discussed over approximately four weeks.

Exams
There will be one mid-term exam, worth 100 points. I will announce the specific date well in advance, but it will be around mid-March. The exam will be administered as a take home exam.

Policy Brief
Students are required to write a policy brief. These briefs will be presented to the rest of the class toward the end of the semester (see class schedule). More information about the assignments will be available online. Students will need to inform the instructor about the topic/s to be covered in their assignments no later than March 22nd. This writing assignment will be worth 100 points, with an additional 25 points for presentation.

Class Participation
Participation is graded in this class! Each student’s contribution is helpful to increase our understanding of the topics we’ll cover. Only rule is, be courteous to others and tolerant with ideas that you don’t agree with. I will sometimes guide the in-class discussions but not always. I will both encourage students to participate, and I also reserve the right to randomly call on students for their opinions and ideas on the readings/ongoing conversations (i.e. the Socratic method). So be ready to be called on! The more you participate in class, the less likely it is that I will call on you out of the blue.

For Graduate Students Only
The graduate students enrolled in this class will have an additional requirement to be eligible for graduate credits. You will be required to prepare a poster analyzing a relevant water policy issue. It is up to you whether you decide to do your poster on the same topic as your policy brief.

Assignment Due Dates:
All final assignments, including policy briefs and posters, are due on the final day of
regularly scheduled class for spring semester (April 24th)

Attendance
It should be clear from the grading breakdown that it will be extremely difficult for you to do well in this course if you habitually miss classes. Also, this is a small enough class that an absence will be easily noticed. **There will not be any make-up exams, except for documented medical reasons. No opportunities for extra credit will be given in this course.**

Your Responsibility as a Student
Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class and come prepared to participate in discussions. I highly encourage you to participate in class discussions, but please be respectful of others’ opinions. Any disparaging or derogatory statements based on someone’s race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or any other natural/biological/genetic/visual source(s) of difference, whether protected by law or not, will not be tolerated.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Misconduct
It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct [http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/).

Accommodation of Disabilities
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Mental Health
As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental
health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614–292–5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614–292–5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1--800--273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

**Title IX and Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

**Diversity**

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

**GRADING**

The grading breakdown is as follows:

**Undergraduate Students**

- 2 quizzes, 25 points each: 50 points
- 1 exam, 100 points: 100 points
- Policy brief: 100 points
- Policy brief presentation: 25 points
- Class participation: 25 points

TOTAL: 300 points
Graduate Students

2 quizzes, 25 points each              50 points
1 exam, 100 points                  100 points
Policy brief                        100 points
Policy brief presentation           25 points
Class participation                25 points
Poster                              100 points

TOTAL                                  400 points

Based on your earned points, your grade will be assigned based on the following scale:

A:     93 % or more of maximum points
A-:    90 to 92.9 % of maximum points
B+:    87 to 89.9 % of maximum points
B:     83 to 86.9 % of maximum points
B-:    80 to 82.9 % of maximum points
C+:    77 to 79.9 % of maximum points
C:     73 to 76.9 % of maximum points
C-:    70 to 72.9 % of maximum points
D+:    67 to 69.9 % of maximum points
D:     63 to 66.9 % of maximum points
D-:    60 to 62.9 % of maximum points
E:     less than 60 % of maximum points
CLASS SCHEDULE

January 9th
Introduction

No required reading. We will go over the syllabus, introduce ourselves, and discuss expectations for the semester.

January 11th
Water use at a planetary scale (I)

Required readings:


January 16th
MLK day (No class)

January 18th
Water use at a planetary scale (II)

Required readings:


January 23rd
Water and Trans-boundary Conflicts

Required reading:

January 25th
Water and Trans-boundary Conflicts (II)

Required reading:

January 30th
Water Doctrines

Required reading:

Suggested reading:


February 1st
The Economics of Water

Required reading:

Suggested reading:
February 6th
Disputes in a context of scarcity

Required reading:


Suggested readings:

Fleck, J. (2016). Water is for fighting over: And other myths about water in the west. Island Press.


February 8th
Policy Brief Discussion

February 13th
Disputes in a context of abundance

Required reading:


February 15th
Clean Water Act (I)

Required reading:


Suggested reading:

February 20th
Clean Water Act (II)

Required reading:


Patterson, Steve. 12/16/2020. *Florida taking wetlands permitting role from federal government; only 3rd state to do so.* Florida Times-Union.

February 22nd
Safe Drinking Water Act (I)

Required readings:


We’ll visit the Contaminate Candidate List at [http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/dws/ccl/](http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/dws/ccl/)

Suggested reading:


February 27th
Safe Drinking Water Act (II)

Required readings:


March 1st
Water Security

Required reading:

March 6th
Water Justice

Required reading:

March 8th
Water Affordability

Required reading:


Suggested readings:

March 13th
Spring Break (no class)

March 15th
Spring Break (no class)

March 20th
No class
**March 22nd**
**Case Study-The Flint Water Crisis (I)**

**Required reading:**

Lane, Madeleine, James Polidori, and Sara Hughes. 2020. *Could the Flint water crisis happen somewhere else?* Read chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Movie: *Poisoned Water.*

**March 27th**
**Case Study-The Flint Water Crisis (II)**

**Required reading:**


**Suggested reading:**


**March 29th**
**“Pick up” exam**

**Note:** You will access the file on Carmen, and we won’t be meeting in the classroom. During class time, however, the instructor will be in the office hours Zoom meeting room to answer any questions. Good luck!
April 3\textsuperscript{rd}
Exam due by 11:59 PM (no class meeting)

April 5\textsuperscript{th}
Final PowerPoint Presentations

April 10\textsuperscript{th}
Final PowerPoint Presentations

April 12\textsuperscript{th}
Final PowerPoint Presentations

April 17\textsuperscript{th}
Final PowerPoint Presentations

April 19\textsuperscript{th}
Final PowerPoint Presentations

April 24\textsuperscript{th}
Submit final Policy Briefs/Posters by 11:59 pm on Carmen