

Course Outline

EST 496-01 (#41987); EST 696-01 (#41986); 3 cr

WATER IN THE MIDDLE EAST: ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

David A. Sonnenfeld*Dept. of Environmental Studies*

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Spring 2018, W 9:30 am – 12:20 pm, RTBA

DESCRIPTION

Overview

Reading seminar on contemporary transboundary water issues and initiatives in Israel, the Palestinian Territories, and Jordan. Participants will explore a variety of perspectives on the biophysical, historical, and sociocultural roots of water-related issues in the region, as well as an array of top-down (technological, managerial) and bottom-up (community-based, participatory) approaches to developing solutions. Designed for graduate students in environmental and natural resource policy, water resources, international relations, conflict resolution, Middle Eastern studies and related fields; undergraduates prepared to undertake serious study and discussion of the topic welcome, too! Each week, students will write short commentaries on required readings; the essays will serve as the starting point for class discussion. At the end of term, students will submit a related seminar paper (15-20 pp., grads; 10-12 pp., undergrads). *Maximum 20 students.*

Procedures

The course meets each Wednesday morning during the semester. It is organized, in the first instance, as a reading seminar, with weekly readings and related short, formal essays. Commentaries/ reading notes are due to the instructor and all course participants *via* the course Blackboard site, no later than **8:00 am, Tuesday**, the day before the class. (Guidelines for these commentaries will be handed out separately.) Students are expected to read all commentaries/ reading notes as well as the required texts prior to class. Each Wednesday morning, we will begin our discussion of the assigned text(s) with the commentaries.

Texts

Tal, Alon, and Alfred Abed Rabbo, eds. 2010. *Water Wisdom: Preparing the Groundwork for Cooperative and Sustainable Water Management in the Middle East*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. ISBN 978-0-8135-4771-8

Course Reader

Requirements

GRADUATE

- Attend all class sessions;
- Read all required texts and everyone's weekly commentaries;
- Write a series of short (max. 500 words, double-spaced) *weekly commentaries* on that week's required readings;
- Submit a seminar paper (15-20 pp.) related to the course topic.

UNDERGRADUATE

- Attend all class sessions;
- Read all required texts and everyone's weekly commentaries;
- Write a series of short (max. 250 words, double-spaced) *weekly reading notes* summarizing and responding to key points in that week's required readings;
- Submit a research paper (10-12 pp.) related to the course topic.

Grading

GRADUATE

- Weekly commentaries (12), 50%
- Seminar paper, 40%
- Attendance and participation, 10%

UNDERGRADUATE

- Research paper, 45%
- Weekly reading notes (12), 40%
- Attendance and participation, 15%

Communication

Office: 211B Marshall

Hrs.: TBA

Tel. 315.470.4931/ 6636, fax 315.470.6915

E-mail: <dsonn@esf.edu>, and <DASonnenfeld@gmail.com>

Web: <http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld>

Bookstore

ESF Virtual Bookstore, available via *myESF*. For further information see:

<http://www.esf.edu/students/books.htm>

Seminar/ research paper*

GRADUATE

- At the end of the course graduate students will submit a seminar paper *closely related to course topic*. This may take any one of a variety of forms including: research paper, draft journal article, review of the literature/ review essay, thesis/ dissertation chapter, research proposal, etc.
- *Proposal*. By **Week 3**, submit an abstract describing your proposed seminar paper; typed, double-spaced, 1-2 pp.
- *Abstract, Outline & Bibliography*. By **Week 7**, submit a revised abstract, outline, and preliminary bibliography for your paper
- *Final Paper*. Due by the beginning of the regularly scheduled **Final Exam** period for this course. 15-20 pp. typed, double-spaced, *plus* cover page and references.

UNDERGRADUATE

- At the end of the course students will submit a final research paper *closely related to course topic*. This may take any one of a variety of forms including: research paper; formal, evidence-based essay, commentary, or editorial; integrated review of the literature/ review essay; etc.
- *Proposal*. By **Week 3**, submit an abstract describing your proposed final research paper; typed, double-spaced, ~1 p.
- *Abstract, Outline & Bibliography*. By **Week 7**, submit a revised abstract, outline, and preliminary bibliography for your paper
- *Final Paper*. Due by the beginning of the regularly scheduled **Final Exam** period for this course. 10-12 pp., typed, double-spaced, *plus* cover page and references.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

I. Introduction

Week 1 (1/17) – Overview and introduction

II. Roots of Water-related Issues in the Region

Week 2 (1/24) – Biophysical

Week 3 (1/31) – Historical

Week 4 (2/7) – Sociocultural

III. Top-down Solutions (Managerial, Technological)

Week 5 (2/14) – Israel

Week 6 (2/21) – Palestinian Territories

* For extra credit, in addition to the seminar/ research paper assignment described here, I am open to receiving also a supplemental digital media product based on or complementing that paper.

Week 7 (2/28) – Jordan

Week 8 – (3/7) Regional/ international

SPRING BREAK

IV. Bottom-up Solutions (Community-based, Participatory)

Week 9 (3/21) – Israel

Week 10 (3/28) – Palestinian Territories

Week 11 (4/4) – Jordan

Week 12 (4/11) – Transboundary

V. Conclusion/ Future Prospects

Week 13 (4/18) – Future prospects

Week 14 (4/25) – Open session/ wrap up | Student presentations

Finals Week – Seminar/ Research Papers Due

NOTICES

Accommodations

SUNY-ESF works closely with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University in assisting students with learning and physical disabilities. If you may need accommodations in this course related to a disability, please contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs, 110 Bray Hall, tel. 315.470.6660, for assistance with the process. You may also contact ODS directly, 804 University Avenue, rm. 309; call 315.443.4498, to schedule an appointment. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and issues Accommodation Authorization Letters to students with documented disabilities, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. To learn more about ODS, visit <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>.

Fire alarm procedures

If a fire alarm sounds, exit the building immediately, to the area designated for this course. Stay together as a class until released. Take all personal belongings with you, including keys, backpacks, electronics, and coats. Let your instructor know in advance if you have any special needs in case of a building evacuation. For further information, contact the Office of Student Affairs, tel. 315.470.6660.