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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11-12  
By Appointment. E-mail: Becky Duo (yd450@nyu.edu)  
Room 1412

Course Description
While global citizens have long been concerned about conserving and rationing our use of fossil fuels, the same cannot be said for an even more precious resource—water. Only in the last few years have government agencies, NGOs, and the market begun to tackle the problem of dwindling water resources. The current statistics and projections are dire. If we do not come up with new technologies to conserve water and use it more efficiently, more people will be without clean water or enough food. The United Nations estimates that by 2030 as many as 4 billion people will not have access to enough water for their basic needs.

Just to give you a few facts to consider over the course of this term:
• Water scarcity affects every continent and affects 4 out of 10 people
• Demand in the US has tripled in the past 30 years, but population has only doubled
• 20% of clean water in the U.S. is lost due to leaks and seepage
• Moving and treating water uses 19% of CA electricity and 30% of its natural gas
• Water related diseases are the leading cause of child death, 4,500 per day
• Over 80% of US waterways have some contamination by medicine or pollutants

During the course of this semester we will read about both contemporary issues that affect us as well as look at the historical context in which these problems developed. While we will focus mainly on the United States and China, we will also look at examples from the Middle East and other regions.

Classroom Etiquette
Please turn off all beepers, cell phones, l-phones, etc. when you come into class. Finally, please plan on attending class from 9:45-11:00. You are also free to bring in coffee and a snack – I probably will. Please do not come in late or leave early. I consider this extremely rude behavior. If you do need to leave early or come late, please do me the courtesy of letting me know before class begins. In return, I promise to turn off my own cell phone and to begin and end class on time. Thank you for cooperating and making this a pleasant learning environment for you and your fellow students.
Readings
The reading assignments for this class range from 100 to 200 pages per week. Below is the list of books you should purchase. In addition, there will be other articles and book chapters available to you on NYU Classes. You are expected to read all material before you come to class. I also expect that you will have digested the material and are prepared to have an in-depth discussion in class. All required texts are listed below and are available at the Library.

Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire*
Steven Johnson, *Ghost Map*
Paolo Bacigalupi, *Water Knife*

Writing Assignments
There are five writing assignments in this course based on the readings. I use these to help me to assess your writing and to give you practice at writing at a fairly quick pace. These are worth 50% of your grade. You will write the essay and I will award it a provisional grade and provide feedback. At the end of the term, on December 15th, you will turn in a portfolio with each essay, which you will have rewritten based on my feedback. Your final grade on those papers will be based on the rewrites.

(As an alternative and with my permission you may work on a research prospectus. Based on the prospectus you would then sign up for an Independent Study with me in the Spring term to complete the work.)

I emphasize clear and elegant writing in all of the papers you turn in to me. There are a number of great books and web-sites on the practice of writing, but I suggest E.B. White’s *Elements of Style* as one of my favorite places to look. You should also use regularly and refer to *Rules for Writers*, which you have been given. Also, all papers must conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style* in terms of form and citation styles. Copies can be found in the reserve section of the library and also on-line.

Assignments turned in after the specified time (usually 7 p.m.) on the due date will be considered late and will have its grade lowered by one-third. Each additional day the paper is late will reduce the grade by another third. No exceptions will be made for computer errors or malfunctions: so don’t forget to back-up your files! All essay must be posted on NYU Classes and must be in .doc or .docx format. No .pdfs and not pages.

Group Project
The last three weeks of the class are devoted to discussing our future and how water will be used. We are reading a dystopic novel, *Water Knife*, which will help guide our discussion. You will work in collaborative groups of 2 or 3 students to present on a topic about a current problem and/or the future of water use. The project can be about almost any topic and can be in any format: Power Point Presentation, performance, film, etc..
We will talk about this in more detail as the semester goes forward. This will be 20% of your grade.

**Class Participation**
As you can see from the dated syllabus, your constant participation is an essential component of your experience in this class. You will enjoy the class more and learn more if you come prepared to engage in lively discussion. Two unexcused absences, regardless of the reason, will result in you earning an unsatisfactory grade for the course. An excused absence means that you have notified me at least 24 hours in advance of the class you are unable to attend. So, make sure to plan ahead and let me know your plans for when you will be out of town. Also, let me know ASAP when you are ill. Please do not let yourself get behind – make sure you see me if you are having any trouble keeping up in class.

**Academic Integrity**
Any breach of academic integrity is not tolerated at NYU, and will result in an immediate failing grade as well as disciplinary review.

*Academic stealing* refers to the theft of exams or exam answers, of papers or take-home exams composed by others, and of research notes, computer files, or data collected by others.

*Academic cheating, collusion, and fraud* refer to having others do your schoolwork or allowing them to present your work as their own; using unauthorized materials during exams; inventing data or bibliography to support a paper, project, or exam; purchasing tests, answers, or papers from any source whatsoever; submitting (nearly) identical papers to two classes.

*Plagiarism* refers to the use of another’s work without full acknowledgment, whether by suppressing the reference, neglecting to identify direct quotations, paraphrasing closely or at length without citing sources, spurious identifying quotations or data, or cutting and pasting the work of several (usually unidentified) authors into a single undifferentiated whole.

**Final Grades**
Your final grade will be based on the break down below. You cannot pass this course unless you turn in every assignment. Failure to turn in even one assignment will result in you earning no higher than a D+ in this course and failing to receive credit. This is to ensure that those of you taking the course credit/fail get a sense of all the assignments and learn something from each one.

| Class Participation | 30% |
| Smaller Papers – 5 Papers (10% each) | 50% |
| September 14 | |
| September 30 | |
October 28
November 21
December 9
December 15 – Final Portfolio Due

**Group Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Form Teams</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Title, Outline, Work Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Check in with Prof. Montoya and Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Draft of Plan for Presentation</td>
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# Weekly Syllabus

**Subject to Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td><strong>Defining the Problem</strong></td>
<td>U.N. Human Right to Water and Sanitation, 2010</td>
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<td>U.N., Managing Water Under Uncertainty and Risk</td>
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<td><em>Water Ethics</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Li Tianchen, “Confucian Ethics and the Environment”</td>
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<td>September 6</td>
<td><strong>The Great Flood and China’s Origins</strong></td>
<td>Montgomery, “Emperor Yu’s Great Flood”</td>
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<td>Goldin, “The Myth That China Has No Creation Myth”</td>
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<td>Wu, et.al., “Outburst Flood”</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td><strong>Water in the Early Modern Period</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Venetians, Mughals and Dutch Empires in Comparison</strong></td>
<td>J. Richards, <em>The Unending Frontier</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>K. Appuhn, “Friend or Flood? The Dilemmas of Water Management in Early Modern Venice.”</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td><strong>Water and the Ottoman Empire</strong></td>
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<td>Alan Mikhail, “An Irrigated Empire: The View From Ottoman Fayyuum”</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
<td><strong>First Paper Due</strong></td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Autumn Festival Holiday</strong></td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td><strong>The American South: Water, Rice and Power</strong></td>
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<td>Mart A. Stewart, “Rice, Water and Power”</td>
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<td>Compare with late Qing Dynasty Woodcuts</td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td><strong>The Irrigated Landscape</strong></td>
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<td>Donald Worster, <em>Rivers of Empire</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Wittfogel, “Chinese Society,” excerpt</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
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<td>Donald Worster, <em>Rivers of Empire</em></td>
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<td>Form Teams for Group Projects</td>
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September 29  Watch *Hoover Dam*  
September 30  2nd Paper Due (1,000 words)  
October 4 & 6  Fall Break  
October 11  Getting Clean Water to Urban Spaces  
Melosi, *Precious Commodity*, selections (2 and 8)  
Koeppel, *Water for Gotham*, Chapter 6  
October 13  New York City Water  
David Grann, “City of Water,” *New Yorker*, September 2003  
Robin Shulman, *Eat the City*, “Fish”  

Charles Rosenberg, excerpt from *Cholera Years*  

October 18  Steven Johnson, *Ghost Map*  
October 20  Steven Johnson, *Ghost Map*  
October 25  The Case of Flint, Michigan  
October 27  Work on your Group Projects  
October 28  3rd Paper Due (1,000 words)  
November 1  Historical Background: Water Use in China  
Robert Marks, *Tigers, Rice, Silk & Silt*  
November 3  Historical Background: Water Use in China  
Robert B. Marks, *Tigers, Rice, Silk & Silt*  
John Richards, *Unending Frontier*, Chapter 4  
November 8  Water Issues in Contemporary China  
“China’s Three Gorges Dam: An Environmental Catastrophe?”  
*Scientific American*, March 25, 2008  
November 10  Work on your Group Projects  
November 15  Trans-Border Water Issues and Global Implications  
Maude Barlow, *Blue Covenant, selections*  
*Global Water Security*, ICA assessment  
*NYTimes Articles* on discovered African Aquifer
November 17  The Case of Pakistan and India

November 21  4th Paper Due (1,000 Words)

November 22  Work on Group Project

November 24  No Class – Thanksgiving Break

November 29  Water and Suburban Development
Mike Davis, “The Case for Letting Malibu Burn,” Ecology of Fear
New Yorker, “Sinkholes,” 3/18/13

December 1  Environmental Justice and Racism
Ellen Stroud, “Troubled Waters in Ecotopia”
Primary Sources to Accompany article
Brown and Schmidt, Water Ethics, excerpt

December 6  Dystopic Futures
Water Knife

December 9  4th Paper Due (1,000 Words)

December 8  Class Presentations of Group Projects

December 12  Class Presentations of Group Projects

December 15  Writing Portfolio Due