

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and contextualize key terms in global water policy.
- Characterize and critically assess claims, reforms, institutions, and case studies in water governance, drawing on different perspectives and disciplinary approaches.
- Critical analyze a key problem in water governance, through the production of an original text (either a policy brief or research paper) that draws on original research and applies the theoretical vocabulary and concepts learned in the course.

Topics

- Trends in 'proper' water management, from IWRM to watersheds to water security frameworks
- Historical evolution of water rights, property regimes, diverse legal traditions and norms, and legal pluralism
- Water markets, privatization, economic reform, and marketization trends in global governance
- Big dam development and small dam removal
- River restoration science and policy at the international level
- Global water organizations and expert networks
- Transboundary water conflicts and institutions (e.g. the Columbia River Treaty)
- The politics of water supply alternatives (e.g. desalination, recycled effluent, urban rainwater harvesting)
- Urban water provision, uneven development, and the future of networked infrastructure
- The right to water

Highlights

- Class sessions combine mini-lectures, original research activities, knowledgeable guests, and student-led discussions to foster an **active** and **engaged** model of learning.
- **Field trip** to visit operations center of Willamette River dams (date and details to be announced) and discuss challenges in dam/ecosystem management with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Student learning culminates in an **original research product** on a critical issue in water policy, in the form of a **policy brief** or individual/group **research paper** intended for peer-review publication or a thesis prospectus.
- A truly **interdisciplinary and global approach to water**, grounded in the **social and policy sciences**. Undergraduates, graduate, and professional students from all departments and programs are welcome, though in experience in (or at least a healthy appetite for!) water issues will help you succeed in this course. Current or future law students are especially welcome!
- Fulfills upper-division **policy** course requirement for the **Environmental Studies** major; the **Geography** major (for the Environment track and the new Water Science & Society specialization); and may meet requirements for the **International Studies** major.