
WATERS OF THE GLOBE in Fall 2018 (PO3035)

Course Code	PO3035	Professor(s)	Oleg Kobtzeff
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	GL 16
Class Schedule	TF: 16:55-18:15 in G-L22	Office Hours	Walk in: Tuesdays & Fridays: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Or, by appointment only Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays before 10:30 AM or Wednesdays early afternoon)
Credits	4	Email	okobtzeff@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	688 officehours only

Course Description

This course introduces students to the discipline of *hydropolitics* a field in applied political geography. Its focus is expressed in the the United Nations' General Assembly, in December 2003, proclamation of the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life':

Among the themes that are central for the 'Water for Life' Decade are: scarcity, access to sanitation and health, water and gender, capacity-building, financing, valuation, Integrated Water Resources Management, trans-boundary water issues, environment and biodiversity, disaster prevention, food and agriculture, pollution and energy."

UN "Water for Life" website <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>

This includes not only freshwater but also marine environments where problems are often the same as in rivers and lakes, especially when we study such issues as biodiversity, fisheries, environmental degradation, climate change, marine and freshwater transportation and such points of interface between oceans and rivers as delta areas (hurricane Katrina and its political implications is a perfect example).

Course Learning Outcomes

recognize the main features of physical and human geography of the type of environment studied

free themselves from clichés and misconceptions (perception of indigenous peoples as “backward” and isolated from world affairs, misinformed ecological preconceptions such as the inhospitability of all Polar regions, etc.)

when traveling to or working in the areas or types of environment studies, be able to recognize and understand, without unfounded preconceptions, the environmental, social and economic features having shaped local human activities, mentalities and geography

recognize differences or resemblances of human geographies in similar types of environments (lakes, river banks, coastal areas) in different parts of the world.

identify which powers/actors seek to gain which geopolitical prizes (natural or human resources, markets, military strategic advantages, etc.) by exploiting water itself or in marine or freshwater environments

understand how this geopolitical competition affects international relations in general and the interior affairs of the countries involved in the affairs of the region

assess the chances for political stability or the risks of conflict over water (as a resource), or strategic waterways

assess the chances for economic development (particularly sustainable development) in freshwater and marine habitats; identify the potential beneficiaries of such growth and whether this development will be equally beneficial to all social strata among riparians

recognize the relevance of such knowledge for students' future professional lives (as investors, diplomats, journalists, educators, political, humanitarian, military decision-makers, ,etc.)

General Education

Course Outline

Tuesday

September 11

TOPICS

Opening remarks.

Links between freshwater and maritime waters environments and human geography

READINGS

Peter H. Gleick & David J. Cuff, "Water", David Cuff and Andrew

Goudie, eds., *The Oxford Companion to Global Change*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. (Available online at AUP Library – warning: it is difficult to find from your computer – get help from a librarian if it becomes too difficult).

Friday September
14

TOPICS

Chapter 1. Fresh Waters of the World : The Great Geopolitical Problématiques

general introduction to the physical geography of freshwater environments; why they are fragile and why they pose political challenges

READINGS

- Jack P. Manno, "Water Issues", in-Nigel J. Young, ed., *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010 (Available online at AUP Library)
- Peter Crabbe, "Chapter 25. Water Confronting the Critical Dilemma" in Ian Douglas, Richard J. Huggett, Mike Robinson, eds., *Encyclopedia of Geography : The Environment and Humankind* (accessible online through AUP Library system: <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/auparis/docDetail.action?docID=10062748>)

Sunday
September 16

Last day to DROP/ADD courses

Tuesday
September 18
TOPICS

Chapter 1. Fresh Waters of the World: The Great Geopolitical Problématiques (continued)

presentation of the range of economic, political and ecological problems involving aquifers, rivers, wetlands, lakes, their flora and fauna and the people living nearby or exploiting freshwater in all its forms.

READINGS

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/world/2003/world_forum/water/2974966.stm
- Anonymous, "The Politics of Water", The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, accessed Aug. 2, 2006 @ http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/archive/030528_politicsofwater.shtml
- Tim Hirsch, "Water forum 'giant talking shop'", The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, accessed Aug. 2, 2006 @ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2879125.stm>
- Tim Hirsch, "'Ideological battle' over world's water" The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, accessed Aug. 2, 2006 @ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2861095.stm>

Friday September
21

TOPICS

Chapter 2. Water as a prize in the "resource wars".

Water as the most precious natural and economic resource. The following dialogue is from the TV series *The West Wing*, (Season 4, Episode 3). President Bartlett (played by Martin Sheen) recalls how his daughter Ellie studied geography in high school:

"Ellie had a teacher named Mr. Pordy who had no interest in nuance. He asked the class why there's always been conflict in the Middle East, and Ellie raised her hand and said: 'it's a centuries-old religious conflict involving land and suspicion and culture and'... 'Wrong!', Mr. Pordy said. 'It's because it's incredibly hot and there's no water'".

We study the problem of scarcity and how this can lead to local and international conflict.

READINGS

De Villiers 2001: chapters 2 and 16

Tuesday
September 25
TOPICS
READINGS

Chapter 2. Water as a prize in the "resource wars". (continued)

José Augusto de Sousa Silveira, "Resource Wars: The New Landscape of Global Conflict" (Review), *Revista de Ciências Militares*, Vol. III, Nº 2, novembro 2015, pp. 687-693 (available on Blackboard)

Recommended:

- George J. Demko, "Water, Water... Well Not Everywhere. Conflicts in the Making", *Why in the World? Adventures in Geography*, NY: Doubleday, 1992, p. 160-168 (posted on Blackboard)
- Alex Kirby, "Why world's taps are running dry", The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, accessed Aug. 2, 2006 @ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2943946.stm>
- "Water wars: Ask the experts", The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, accessed Aug. 2, 2006 @ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/2948004.stm
- The Pacific Institute > The World's Water > Water Conflict Chronology: <http://www.worldwater.org/chronology.html>. From that page, click on "Environment and Security Water Conflict Chronology" and read that page (focus on the 19th and 20th centuries; you can simply browse the rest or skip it all together if you lack time).

Friday September
28
TOPICS

Chapter 3. Valuation Politics. Power, Private Business and the geopolitics of Water: an issue affecting local politics, economies and societies globally.

+ Short quiz to verify whether the reading assignments for this day (see below) have been read. Class discussions will focus essentially on the issues presented in the assigned texts.

This chapter is essentially about the economics of the exploitation of freshwater. After a survey of the economic and political actors involved in the business of water (businesses, consumers)

READINGS

De Villiers, 2001: Chapter 7 the success of this day's class discussions depend on your reading the following!

Marq de Villiers "Information, disinformation or misinformation?", Marq de Villiers personal website,
<https://marqdevilliers.com/information-disinformation-misinformation/>

Sandra L. Postel and Barton H. Thompson, Jr., "Watershed protection: Capturing the benefits of nature's water supply services", *Natural Resources Forum*, N° 29, 2005, pp. 98–108 (available online through "Waters of the Globe" Blackboard site or at <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/watershedportal/Documents/Watershed%20ProtectnNat%20Res%20Forum05.pdf>)

Or alternatively a more simple but complete source: [Water privatization](#)

Then read arguments for privatization):

- Michael Klein , "Analysis: The cost of water", The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, a(continued from previous session)essed Aug. 2, 2006 @ <http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/2957398.stm>

arguments against privatization:

- Trevor Ngwane, "Water privatisation: The case against", The Water Debate webfile, *BBC News*, a(continued from previous session)essed Aug. 2, 2006 @ http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/2959396.stm
- Marc Laimé, "In the business of supply ", *Le Monde diplomatique*, online English edition of mondediplo.com, March 2005 : <http://kit.monediplo.com/spip.php?article4140>
- Jon Luoma, "The Water Thieves" , Ecologistonline , 01/03/2004 (accessed 26/06/2006 at

http://www.theecologist.org/investigations/politics_and_economics/268586/the_privatisation_of_water.html

Students who can read French fluently may prefer the following article to all of the above sources:

Jean-Paul Haghe, "Comment l'eau courante est devenue une marchandise" (a very readable and well illustrated summary of a doctoral thesis) a supplement of the online review *h2o*:
<http://www.h2o.net/magazine/culture-histoire/comment-l-eau-courante-est-devenue-une-marchandise.htm>

Recommended (as a major gateway for researching these issues):

"The Water Barons" website by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
<https://www.icij.org/projects/waterbarons/hard-water-uphill-campaign-privatize-canadas-waterworks>

Tuesday October 2
TOPICS

Chapter 3. Valuation Politics. Power, Private Business and the geopolitics of Water: an issue affecting local politics, economies and societies globally. (continued)

READINGS

NBC News had released a series of reports and documentaries presenting a wide scope of issues involved in this subject: "[Liquid Assets: The Big Business of Water](#)" (available on Blackboard > Course documents > Valuation issues and hydropolitics):

To understand the scope of logistics, infrastructures and financial costs involved, students will consult the home page of the Suez group at <https://www.suez.com/en>

Recommended (required from students in the development track or environmental studies minor):

- Sandra L. Postel & Vickers, Amy, "Chapter 3. Boosting Water Productivity", *State of the World 2004*, The Worldwatch Institute: Washington D.C., January 2, 2004, pp. 46-202 (available online through "Waters of the Globe" Blackboard site or through <http://www.greeneconomics.net/StateOfWorld-2004.pdf>)
- Scott Vaughan, *Privatization, trade policy and the question of water*, Les séminaires de l' Iddri , N° 9, Paris: Iddri, 2003 (available on Blackboard or at http://www.iddri.org/Publications/Collections/Idees-pour-le-debat/id_0313_vaughan.pdf)

Friday October 05
TOPICS

**Chapter 4. The International Dimension of Conflict over Water:
The Middle East**

We will finally study how the problems involved affect the geopolitics of the entire globe as much as oil politics in the same region.

READINGS

De Villiers, 2001: chapter 11

Tuesday October
09
TOPICS

**Chapter 4. The International Dimension of Conflict over Water:
The Middle East (continued)**

READINGS

De Villiers, 2001: chapters 12 and 13.

Additional materials for the motivated student:

“[Waternet](#) is a privately-owned website (a portal/web journal/dossier)

on the hydropolitics of the Middle East

Friday October 12

TOPICS

Chapter 5. The Politics of Wetlands: The Gulf of Mexico. Part 1: Florida.

Besides exploring the politics of the Gulf region (including the political dimensions of Hurricane Katrina) and the geography some of the most fascinating and richest eco-systems on the planet, where maritime and freshwater environments are difficult to distinguish, this chapter will be an excursion into the cultural dimension of hydropolitics. One of the central themes of the class sessions will be the study of the legacy of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, author of the classic *The Everglades: River of Grass* and key figure of American environmentalism. Introducing students to the theoretical problem of *representation* in geopolitical *epistemology*, we will take a special interest in the cultural (even artistic) dimension of hydropolitics, in the course of which we will view excerpts of Flaherty's classic docu-drama *Louisiana* will also study the politics.

In this first part we will focus on Florida's hydropolitics, particularly re: the Everglades.

READINGS

- Jack E. Davis, "'Conservation is now a Dead Word': Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the Transformation of American Environmentalism", *Environmental History*, Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2003 (accessible at AUP Library)
- W. Hodding Carter, "[Without a Paddle](#)", *Outside Magazine*, August 2003, (online version) accessed July 18, 2017
- Guy Martin, "[See You Later, Alligator](#)", April 9, 2006 *The New York Times* (online)

Tuesday October
16

TOPICS

Chapter 5. The Politics of Wetlands: The Gulf of Mexico. Part 2: Louisiana.

- The environment of the Bayou - The destruction of the Bayou

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- Flaherty's "Louisiana Story" - hurricane Katrina

READINGS

Peter Heller, "[Good Boy Gone Good](#)", *Outside Magazine*, August 2003, (online version)

Friday October 19

TOPICS

Chapter 6. The Politics of a Local Conflict over Water: The Klamath River Basin

Despite the fact that this is a land of abundance (the Northwest coast of the United States, with abundant rain) it shows how diverging interests in the use of freshwater water can develop into intense conflicts.

READINGS

(De Villiers, 2000): chapter 8

- Patrick Symmes, "River Impossible", *Outside Magazine*, August 2003, (online version) accessed July 18, 2017, <https://www.outsideonline.com/1821746/river-impossible>
- "Glossary", *The Oregon Story > Water > Conflicts & Crisis*: <https://www.opb.org/television/search/?q=Klamath+conflict>
- Colin Miller, "The Klamath River Dispute", accessed July 18, 2017 <http://www.klamathforestalliance.org/Newsarticles/newsarticle20060615.html>
- "Klamath River Basin: Background and Issues", February 1, 2012 – June 7, 2012, document R42157, Congressional Research Service website: <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R42157.html>
- Zoe Loftus-Farren, "Freeing the Klamath", *Earth Island Journal*, February 25, 2016, online, http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/freeing_the_klamath

Tuesday October

23

TOPICS

Chapter 7. The Geopolitics of Lakes. International Dimensions of Conflict over Water: Canadian hydropolitics and the Case of James Bay.

How sharing water resources and hydropolitics in Quebec affect the geopolitics of Canada and its relations with the USA.

READINGS

- (De Villiers, 2000): chapter 14
- John Mitchell, "James Bay: Where Two Worlds Collide", *Water, National Geographic*, Special edition, November 1993 (available on Blackboard)
- James Bay, [Electric Power and Conflict with Indigenous Groups](#) (case study documents) accessed July 18, 2017

Friday October 26
TOPICS

QUIZ!

Chapter 8. Globalization and the Use of Waterways: Containers, the Growing Size of Boats and the Rise of Hub Ports

How the advances in technology have benefited boats, cargos and port facilities, and how a revolution in sea-faring and river transportation has become a major (if not *the* major) factor of globalization. Unfortunately, there are winners and losers in this revolution...

READINGS

Read all items in "Geopolitics of Containers and Ports" file on Blackboard.

Tuesday October 30

MIDTERM: Quiz on freshwater politics + deadline for presenting research proposal

October 31 – November 4: Fall break: no classes

Tuesday
November 06
TOPICS

Chapter 9. The Oceans of the World: The Great Geopolitical Problématiques. Part 1.

An introduction to the political geography of the oceans. The major themes of this part 1:

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- A. The main maritime governance issues of today;
 - B. the life of seaports

READINGS

Jonathan Raban, "At Sea", *Outside magazine*, September 1996
online version: <https://www.outsideonline.com/1845031/sea>

- "Political Geography of the Oceans"
<http://geography.about.com/od/politicalgeography/a/politicaloceans.htm>
- United Nations Atlas of the Oceans
(<http://www.oceansatlas.org/>)
- issues (
 - Browse on all issues)
- About

> International Cooperation

<http://www.oceansatlas.org/subtopic/en/c/301/>

>History of maritime law

>The Modern Law of the Sea

Friday November 9
TOPICS

last day to choose W or CR/NC grading options
Chapter 9. The Oceans of the World: The Great Geopolitical Problématiques. Part 2.

An introduction to the political geography of the oceans. The major themes of this part 2:

- C. Mahan, Spykeman and other naval strategists
- D. military approaches to maritime hydropolitics

READINGS

- Anonymous, "[Alfred Thayer Mahan](#)"
- Reynolds B. Peele "The Importance of Maritime Chokepoints", *Parameters*, Summer 1997, pp. 61-74; online version: <http://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/pubs/parameters/Articles/97sum>

mer/peelee.htm

- Sam J. Tangredi, "Introduction", Globalization and Maritime Power, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University: Washington, D.C., 2002 (Blackboard in The Oceans of the World: The Great Geopolitical Problématiques)

Tuesday November
13

TOPICS

Chapter 9. The Oceans of the World: The Great Geopolitical Problématiques. Part 3.

An introduction to the political geography of the oceans. The major themes of this part 3:

- E. Mann Borghese and non-military approaches to maritime hydropolitics
- F. Maritime law (mainly the problem of international boundaries at sea)

READINGS

- E. Mann Borghese, "The Law of the Sea" (Blackboard in The Oceans of the World: The Great Geopolitical Problématiques)

Friday November
16

TOPICS

Chapter 10. : Global Governance and Maritime Politics: Environmental Concerns

This is basically a focus on the first chapter of E. Mann Borghese's *Oceanic Circle* with the addition of a special focus on fisheries.

READINGS

- Roddy Scheer, "Ocean Rescue. Can We Head Off A Marine Cataclysm?", *E Magazine*; <https://emagazine.com/oceanrescue/> accessed September 18, 2018)
- UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform : Oceans & Seas:

Tuesday
November 20
TOPICS

Chapter 11. Global Governance and the Oceans. A Challenge to Governance: Piracy and Lawlessness at Sea; their Humanitarian, Economic and Geopolitical Implications.

Just as crime, trafficking, human rights violations, and civil unrest is raising questions about what many call the post-Cold War chaos or anarchy, lawlessness at sea is becoming a catastrophe of global proportions. In fact, most of the crime, trafficking, human rights violations, and civil unrest (in the forms of modern piracy and naval terrorism) occurs today a sea. How the situation will get completely out of control if stable nation-states and IGOs are incapable of finding a military solution, rapidly. Would creating an international naval force (international equivalent of the US Coast Guards) be the occasion to advance global governance?

READINGS

Alia Intably, "[More Dangerous Than Terrorism? The Problem of Maritime Piracy \(with a special focus on Somalia\)](#)"

Friday November
23
TOPICS

Chapter 12. Case study: The Baltic Sea.

READINGS

O. Kobtzeff, "Unity and Division in the Geopolitical Environment of the Baltic Region: Russia and its Western Neighbors." (unpublished manuscript, available on Blackboard)

Tuesday November
27
TOPICS
READINGS

Chapter 12. Case study: The Baltic Sea. (continued)
Ibid.

Friday November
30
TOPICS
READINGS

Chapter 13. Case study: the Arctic Ocean.

Øyvind Østerud and Geir Hønneland, "Geopolitics and International Governance in the Arctic", Arctic Review on Law and Politics, vol. 5, 2/2014 pp. 156–176 (available on Blackboard)

Friday December 7

TOPICS	Presentations
READINGS	Ibid.

Friday December
11

TOPICS	Presentations
READINGS	

Friday December
21

FINAL EXAM SESSION: Second quiz + Final essay

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Water: the Fate of Our Most Precious Resource, Mariner Books: Boston & New York, 2001	Marq de Villiers	Mariner Books	9780618127443	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case

of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Proposal: 10%. At midterm (deadline: Friday October 26), students must submit a research paper or a presentation proposal project. It will include a (abstract + bibliography of at least 10 titles of scholarly books or articles, see “assignments” section on Blackboard to study how to present a proposal).

A quiz will held on the day we will study Chapter 3 (see below). Pass or Fail. A very simple test to verify that you have actually read the reading assignments. Pass: points will be added to the midterm quiz. Fail: points will be removed from the midterm quiz.

Quiz. 10 %. Friday October 26. Quiz questions on freshwater politics. A list of exam topics that may appear on the examination sheet will be submitted to students one week before the exam.

Final exam: 40% quiz questions on maritime politics + a 5 to 6-page handwritten essay on the great questions discussed in class (a list of exam topics will be provided to students in early November). A list of exam topics that may appear on the examination sheet will be submitted to students one week before the exam.

Research. 30%.

Students will choose between the following:

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- A 6 to 7 page scholarly article on the subject presented in the proposal or
 - a Presentation or
 - a journalistic article intended for the N&C, the geographic and environmental webzine produced by AUP staff and students (5 to 10 pages + illustrations).

Participation. 10%

Other
