



Policy and Political Aspects of Transboundary Water Management in Israel and the Middle East

Instructor: Dr. Clive Lipchin

Academic year: 2019-20

Semester: Spring

Course number: 0920.6421.01

Credit hours: 2

Lecture times: Thursday, 9:00-10:30

Classroom: Porter building, Room 105

Course website: Moodle

Lecturer information

Office hours: by appointment only

Email: clipchin@gmail.com

Readings: Textbooks

Israel, Jordan and Palestine country files available at:

<https://water.fanack.com/>

Cech, T. V. (2003) Principles of Water Resources: History, Development, Management and Policy. John Wiley & sons, Inc.

Tal, A. and Abed-Rabbo, A. (2008) Water Wisdom: Preparing the Groundwork for Cooperative and Sustainable Water Management in the Middle East.

Additional reading material will be made available during the semester for each topic.

Course description

General course objectives: This course will introduce the major issues hindering or allowing for efficient water management in the Middle East. As water scarcity is a reality in the region, it is critical to explore the ways and means for sustainable management of this resource in the face of growing demand and dwindling supply and the associated regional plans for water allocation among the countries of the region. The course will concentrate on the Jordan River and Dead Sea Basin and associated groundwater resources and how these waters are managed and shared. The course will focus on the water resources of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. The goal of the course is to provide students with an overview of the challenges facing policy makers and water experts in effectively managing these shared resources and negotiating over their equitable allocation.

Course format/delivery: Lecture and discussion



The main goals of the course:

- Global and regional water problems
- Defining and managing water scarcity in the Middle East
- Understanding the role of international and regional peace treaties related to water management
- Understanding the intersection of water needs for society and the environment in a transboundary context
- Understanding of the drivers of conflict and cooperation over water in the Middle East

Course policies

Attendance/lateness: Attendance is required in all classes.

Grading: 50% Final exam + 50% In-class presentation

Final exam: In-class written exam

Course outline*

Lesson	Date	Lecture topic
1	19/3/20	Introduction to contemporary water issues: what's the fuss all about
2	26/3/20	Defining Water Scarcity: Definitions, Perceptions and Projections
3	2/4/20	Overview on Transboundary Water Interactions: Conflict and Cooperation
	9/4/20, 16/4/20	No Classes-Pesach Holiday
4	20.4, 14:15 Make-up of 12/3/20	Regional Water Resources: Review of Major Water Sources of the Middle East
5	23/4/20	International Environmental Law for Transboundary Water Management
6	30/4/20	Water Resources Management and Policy in Israel
7	3/5/20	Field trip to the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley
8	7/5/20	Film: Last Call at the Oasis
9	14/5/20	Water Resources Management and Policy in the Palestinian Authority - The Oslo Accords
10	21/5/20	Water Resources Management and Policy in Jordan The Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty
	28/5/20	No Class- Shavuot Holiday
11	4/6/20	Mega-engineering projects for restoring the Dead Sea and resolving the region's water crisis
12	11/6/20	Transboundary watershed restoration and wastewater management
13	18/6/20	Student presentations
	25/6/20	No Class
	2/7/20, 9 AM	Final exam



*Lectures listed by date are subject to change throughout the semester

Plagiarism Policy

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they were your own. Here are three reasons not to do it:

1. By far the deepest consequence to plagiarizing is the detriment to your intellectual and moral development: you won't learn anything, and your ethics will be corrupted.
2. Giving credit where it's due but adding your own reflection will get you higher grades than putting your name on someone else's work. In an academic context, it counts more to show your ideas in conversation than to try to present them as sui generis.
3. Finally, Tel Aviv University punishes academic dishonesty severely. The most common penalty is suspension from the university, but students caught plagiarizing are also subject to lowered or failing grades as well as the possibility of expulsion.