

# **WATER ISSUES 2006: RIVERS IN PHILOSOPHICAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXTS**

SPRING 2006

Professor: Dr. Irene J. Klaver, UNT, Philosophy (565-3331); klaver@unt.edu  
PHIL 5960, Section 002; Three (3) Credit Hours.

Thursday Evenings 6.00-8.50; EESAT 225 A Library Philosophy Dept.  
Office Hours: by appointment.

## **COURSE TEXTS:**

- Blatter, Joachim and Ingram, Helen, 2001. *Reflections on Water-New Approaches to Transboundary Conflicts and Cooperation*. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Transforming New Orleans and Its Environs, Centuries of Change*, Ed. Craig E. Colten, 2000, University of Pittsburgh Press
- John Graves, *Goodbye to a River*, 2002, Vintage
- John McPhee, *The Control of Nature*, 1989, 1994, Noonday Press, New York.
- Postel, Sandra, and Brian Richter, 2003. *Rivers for Life: Managing Water for People and Nature*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.
- Rio Grande*, Ed. Jan Reid, 2004, Austin University of Texas Press

## **GRADING:**

Grades will be determined by a combination of the following components.

### **I. (20%)**

1. Weekly written reflection on the readings at the class blog page.
2. Collect newspaper and/or journal articles about water issues on a regular basis. Follow leading newspapers, such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Dallas Morning News, magazines for Water-news, websites from alternative press.
3. Gather advertisements about water.

### **II. (20%)**

1. Two literature presentations. This includes writing a 1-2 page summary to be distributed to the class and leading the discussion of that session. Don't read the summary but present 2 or 3 topics for discussion.
2. Participation in discussions on the required readings.
3. Collective presentation at The North Texas Philosophical Association conference, Saturday April 8, 2006, in the EESAT building.

### **III. (10%)**

Field trips: Two days canoe trip on the Brazos river: Sa-Sun, April 15-16. One day canoe trip on Trinity River: Sa. April 22

**IV. (50%)** Course paper or "project," content and format of which must be agreed on by student and professor by the end of Spring Break (in Week IX, March 23, 2006). Collaboration is encouraged, especially between students of different disciplines.

## READING SCHEDULE

**WEEK I: THURSDAY, JAN 19:** Introduction and Overview of Course.

**WEEK II: THU, JAN 26:**

1. John McPhee, *The Control of Nature*, “Atchafalaya.” pp. 3-93
2. Blatter and Ingram, *Reflections on Water*, Part I, Chs.1-2, pp. 3-57

**WEEK III: THU, FEB 2:**

1. *Transforming New Orleans and Its Environs*, Intro, Part 1-3, pp. 1-107
  2. Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, eds, *Making Things Public—Atmospheres of Democracy*, Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press, 2005.
- Jean-Pierre Le Bourhis, “Water Parliaments: Some Examples,” pp. 482-486  
Cordula Kropp, “River Landscaping in Second Modernity,” pp. 486-492

**WEEK IV: THU, FEB 9:**

1. *Transforming New Orleans and Its Environs*, Intro, Part 3-4, pp. 107-219
2. Klaver and Donahue, “Whose Water is it Anyway?” Boundary Negotiations on the Edwards Aquifer in Texas” from *Globalization, Water and Health: Resource Management in Times of Scarcity*, eds. Linda and Scott Whiteford, School of American Research Press, 2005, pp. 107-126

**WEEK V: THU, FEB 16:**

1. Jan Reid, *Rio Grande*, pp. xiii-83
2. George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By*, Chicago University Press, Chicago, selections.
3. Interview with Lakoff in Buzzflash, pp. 1-11.

**WEEK VI: THU, FEB 23:**

1. Jan Reid, *Rio Grande*, pp. 86-163
2. Blatter and Ingram, *Reflections on Water*, Ch.3 & Ch. 7, pp. 57-89 & 189-213
3. Gleick, Peter, et al., 2002. *The World's Water 2002 - 2003: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.  
Ch 6: “Managing Across Boundaries: The Case of the Colorado River Delta,” pp. 133-147
4. Fradkin, Philip L., *A River No More, The Colorado River and the West*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1981 [1968], Ch 1, “Watershed: A Separate Totality,” pp. 3-34.

**WEEK VII: THU, MARCH 3:**

1. Jan Reid, *Rio Grande*, pp. 166--241
2. Postel and Richter, *Rivers for Life*, Chs. 1-2, pp. 1-79.
3. Gleick, Peter, 2000. *The World's Water 2000 - 2001: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.  
Ch 1: “The Human Right to Water,” pp 1-17  
Ch 2: “How Much Water Is There and Whose Is It? The World’s Stocks and Flows of Water and International River Basins,” pp. 19-38

**WEEK VIII: THU, MARCH 10:**

1. Jan Reid, *Rio Grande*, pp. 244-319
2. Blatter and Ingram, *Reflections on Water*, Ch 11, pp. 297-321.
3. Postel and Richter, *Rivers for Life*, Ch. 3, pp. 79-120.

**THU, MARCH 17: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS**

**WEEK IX: THU, MARCH 23:**

NO CLASS: Read John Graves, *Goodbye to a River*

**WEEK X: THU, MARCH 30:**

NO CLASS: Read John Graves, *Goodbye to a River*

**WEEK XI: THU, APRIL 6:**

NO CLASS: Read John Graves, *Goodbye to a River*

**WEEK XII: THU, APRIL 13:**

1. Michael T. Klare, *Resource Wars: The New Landscape of Global Conflict*, Owl Books; Reprint edition (March 13, 2002), Chs. 6 & 7, Water conflicts in Nile, Jordan, Tigris-Euphrates, and Indus River Basins, pp. 138-190
2. de Villiers, M. *Water: The Fate of our Most Precious Resource*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000. Ch 10: "The Reengineered River," pp. 166-181. (about the Rhine and Danube)

**SAT & SUN APRIL 15-16 CANOE TRIP: BRAZOS RIVER**

**WEEK XIII: THU, APRIL 20:**

1. *Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Water Systems*, Ed. Aaron T. Wolf, Cheltenham, UK-Northampton, MA: An Elgar Reference Collection, 2002. Part IV Water Across Boundaries: Case Studies From Around The World. Chs. 17-21, pp. 296-360
2. Gleick, Peter, 1998. *The World's Water 1998-1999: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.  
Ch 4: "Conflict and Cooperation Over Fresh Water," pp. 105-135

**SAT APRIL 22 CANOE TRIP: TRINITY RIVER**

**WEEK XIV: THU, APRIL 27:**

1. Blatter and Ingram, *Reflections on Water*, Ch. 12, pp. 321-341
2. Postel and Richter, *Rivers for Life*, Chs 4-6, pp. 120-205
3. Vandana Shiva, *Water Wars*, Cambridge, MA, 2002, Ch 3, "The Colonization of Rivers: Dams and Water Wars," pp. 53-87
4. Gleick, Peter, *The World's Water 2004 – 2005*, Ch 2, pp. 17-45 Myth and Reality of Bottled Water

**WEEK XV: THU, MAY 4:** Dead week; Regular Class; No new reading. **PAPER DUE**

**WEEK XVI: THU, MAY 11:** Official Exam Time; DISCUSSION PAPERS