Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation  
POLI 3518:0001  
POLI 4500:0001

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Spring 2018  
472 PH  
Office Hours: Monday, 1:30-3:00pm; Tuesday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
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Course website: https://icon.uiowa.edu/

Course Description
Despite the fact that more than two thirds of our “blue planet” is covered with water, only 2.5% is fresh water. As populations have grown and nations have industrialized, the demand on freshwater has increased at an unsustainable rate. Climate change is projected to aggravate the shortage of freshwater in already water stressed regions. These existing and future shortages have resulted in warnings of increasing potential for conflict over international basins or potential “water wars”. U.S. intelligence agencies have warned of an increased possibility that water will be used as a weapon between or within states or to further terrorist aims in the future. Competition over maritime areas has intensified as well, as global fishing stocks have experienced dramatic losses and as states vie for resources in previously uncontested areas, such as the Arctic. This class examines the management of water resources including cross-border rivers and maritime areas. Topics include common property resources, piracy, maritime security, peaceful and militarized conflict management of water-based conflicts, environmental/climate issues, natural disasters, and cooperative and institutional strategies design to promote interstate cooperation over water issues, such as the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention.

Course Requirements
Your final course grade is calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Class Participation (20%)
This class is designed as a discussion seminar. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class and participate in class discussions. One student will be assigned as the lead discussant for each reading (these assignments will be posted on ICON after the first week of class). Your participation grade will be a function of the frequency and quality of your class room participation.

To prepare for class discussions, keep in mind the following points:

a) What is the research question?
b) What is the researcher's theoretical argument? What assumptions underlie this theory?
c) Evaluation of the theory:
   - If the theory is tested, what consequences are tested, how are concepts measured, and what methods are used? Do these make sense?
   - Is there any evidence (other than anecdotal) that supports the theory? Is there evidence that falsifies it? What might you expect to see that would make you think
the theory might be ‘wrong’? Does the author provide you with enough of a structure to say this? In other words, is the theory falsifiable?

d) What conclusions does the researcher draw? Does the researcher fully examine the implications of the theory? What are the most significant research findings?
e) What are the policy implications of the study?

Examinations (50%, 25% each exam)
There are two examinations scheduled on Thursday, March 1st and Tuesday, April 24th. The exams may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies (death in the family). If an emergency arises, you will need to contact the instructor before the exam or you will receive zero credit.

Research Paper (30%, 25% for paper and 5% for presentation)
You will write a research paper on a water conflict case (river or maritime) and present your paper in class (with slides) during the last week (May 1st or May 3rd). I will distribute more information about the paper in class including a list of possible conflicts that you can select for your topic. If for some reason you are dissatisfied with the final grade received on the paper, you may submit a written memo to the instructor explaining why you think the grade is unfair, along with the graded copy of your paper. This memo must be submitted within two weeks of receiving the paper grade. The instructor will read the memo, re-read the paper, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade after rereading the paper a second time.

Required Readings
All assigned readings can be found on the ICON course website. You can earn two extra credit points by emailing me a picture of Sam and Dean from the TV show Supernatural before the first exam.

The grading scale (in percentages) for the course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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Outline of Topics and Weekly Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, January 16</strong></td>
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Additional Resources:


2
**Date/Topic**
**Thursday, January 18 (cont.)**

**Resource Conflicts**

**Assigned Readings**

**Additional Resources:**

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**Week 2: Theoretical Approaches**

**Tuesday, January 23**

**Governing the Commons**


**Additional Resources:**

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**Thursday, January 25**

**Risk Factors for Water Conflicts**


**Additional Resources:**

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**Week 3: River Conflicts**

**Tuesday, January 30**

**Geography**


**Additional Resources:**
**Date/Topic**
**Thursday, February 1**
Hydro-hegemony

**Assigned Readings**

**Additional Resources:**

**Week 4: River Conflicts**
**Tuesday, February 6**
Water Scarcity


**Additional Resources:**

**Thursday, February 8**
Economic/Allocation Issues


**Additional Resources:**

**Week 5 River Cooperation**
**Tuesday, February 13**
Institutions


**Additional Resources:**
Date/Topic
Thursday, February 15
Treaty Design

Assigned Readings

*Additional Resources:*

*Week 6: Maritime Conflict*
Tuesday, February 20
General Patterns


*Additional Resources:*

Thursday, February 22
Resources: Oil & Minerals


*Additional Resources:*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, March 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam #1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9: Spring Break</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tuesday, March 13</td>
<td>No Class, spring break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, March 15</strong></td>
<td>No Class, spring break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date/Topic</td>
<td>Assigned Readings</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10: Dispute Settlement/Arctic</strong></td>
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**Additional Resources**:  

**Additional Resources**:  
| **Week 11: Environmental Resources and Climate Change** | |

**Additional Resources**:  
Thursday, March 29 (cont.)

Additional Resources:


Week 12: Natural Disasters

Tuesday, April 3

Natural Disasters


Additional Resources:


Thursday, April 5

No Class, ISA Conference

Listen to Prof. Mitchell’s presentation to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council describing “Patterns of Maritime Conflicts 1900-2010”, https://icfrc.org/category/fall-2017/

Week 13: Transnational Dynamics

Tuesday, April 10

Cross-Border Troubles


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<tr>
<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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</thead>
</table>
|                    | **Additional Resources:**  
| **Week 14: Piracy and Maritime Terrorism** | **Tuesday, April 17 Piracy**  
|                    | **Additional Resources:**  
| **Week 15: Wrap up** | **Tuesday, April 24**  
**Exam #2**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| **Thursday, April 26** | No Class, Dartmouth talk  
Watch video, “Chasing West Africa’s Pirates”; [http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02bbxb2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02bbxb2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| **Week 16** | **Tuesday, May 1**  
**Paper Presentations**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| **Thursday, May 3** | **Paper Presentations**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
CLAS Teaching Policies & Resources

Administrative Home
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

Electronic Communication
University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities
The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which include but are not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student, instructor, and SDS. See http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/ for information.

Academic Honesty
All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies
The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint
Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. (Wenfang Tang, 335-2358) Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment
Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather
In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.