

GEOG 820: Sem: Human/Social Geography
Spring 2007
Wednesdays, 7-9:45 pm

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HSS 279 x81439
MWF 1:10-2/W 6-7/by appt

This seminar provides an opportunity to examine the human and social geographies of water – especially in California -- and theoretical frameworks useful in the investigation of water, water-related hazards and water resource management.

Required Readings: Articles are accessible via .pdf files linked to iLearn class page.

Grading Policy: Attendance (30%) and thoughtful participation (10%)
two Commentaries (20%) & one Weekly Synthesis (10%)
Research paper – including logistics and presentation (30%)

Attendance: Weekly attendance and regular thoughtful participation are minimal expectations of all students. Be sure to complete readings in advance of each class.

Commentaries: Each student is responsible for two articles/books, by advance arrangement. Post your 500-word critical response to the reading on iLearn by 5 pm on the Sunday evening before class. Ten points each, 20 total.

Weekly Synthesis: Each team is responsible for one week, 2/7 – 4/4. Read the week's articles and Commentaries. Frame significant "talking points" raised by the articles and commentaries to shape the week's class discussion. Post on iLearn by 5 pm on the Tuesday evening before class & prepare to moderate the discussion. 10 points.

Research Paper:

- **PROPOSAL due March 14.** Include a working title, a clearly-stated research question, a 200-word background discussion on the topic and theoretical framework, and a tentative bibliography of at least 5 sources.
- **DRAFT** due in class on **April 25**. Should be about 12 pages, fully referenced, plus maps/illustrations. Exchange with two classmates for edits and comments.
- **FINAL VERSION** due to me by or before **May 23**. 30 points.

Note on Authorship:

- Explicitly acknowledge any words, ideas or graphics that represents previous work by others, using appropriate citations.
- Follow *The Professional Geographer* style sheet (see link on my website) or another standard format of your choice. (Please document the source of this format upon request.)
- If you're ever unsure when/whether/how to cite a source, check with me.
- List all **References Cited** (and only cited references) alphabetically by author in full bibliographic format at the end of the paper.

TOPICS AND READINGS

January 24: Introductions

January 31: Multiple Perspectives on the Human and Social Geography of Water

Meinig, Donald W. 1979. "The Beholding Eye: Ten Versions of the Same Scene," from *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*. New York: Oxford.

...plus ONE of the following SFSU Masters theses (by prior arrangement)

Campbell, James. 1999. In Harm's Way: Urban Development in a Deep Floodplain...

Freitag, David. 2002. Lost in the Fog: An Environmental History of Lake Merced.

Mariscal, Alicia. 2003. The Environmental History of an Urban Wetland

McAfee, Kimra. 2000. Post-Audit of New Melones Dam, CVP, Stanislaus River, CA.

McDonald, Kelsey. 2004. San Pedro Creek Flood Control Project...

Quinlan, Becky. 2006. Individual Response to Flooding in the Trinity River Basin

Travis, Mary. 1995. A Historical and Env. Geographic Analysis of Lake Merritt ...

Prepare to discuss the thesis in light of Meinig: What "scene" does it describe? What is the author's perspective? How does perspective shape the thesis organization/findings?

Part One: Water and Values

February 7: Water, Knowledge and Truth

Kirsch, Scott. 2002. "John Wesley Powell and the Mapping of the Colorado Plateau, 1869-1879...." *Annals AAG* 92(3.)

Meindl, Christopher F., Derek H. Alderman and Peter Waylen. 2002. "On the Importance of Environmental Claims-Making...." *Annals AAG* 92(4.)

Opel, Andy. 1999. "Constructing Purity: Bottled Water and the Commodification of Nature," *Journal of American Culture* 22(4.)

February 14: Political Economy of California Water

Worster, Donald. 1985. "Florescence," Chapter 5 in *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity and the Growth of the American West*. New York: Oxford.

Walker, Richard A. 2004. "Industrial Agriculture," Chapter 5 in *The Conquest of Bread: 150 Years of Agribusiness in California*. New York: New Press.

February 21: Water, Power and Perspective: San Francisco

Clements, Kendrick A.. 1979. "Politics and the Park: San Francisco's Fight for Hetch Hetchy, 1908-1913," *The Pacific Historical Review* 48(2.)

Wilkinson, Nancy Lee. 1991. "No Holier Temple: Hetch Hetchy Revisited," *Landscape* 31(1.)

Brechin, Gray. 1999. "Water Mains and Bloodlines," Chapter 2 from *Imperial San Francisco*. Berkeley: University of California.

February 28: The Los Angeles River

Davis, Mike. 1998. "How Eden Lost its Garden," from *Ecology of Fear*. New York: Henry Holt.

Gumprecht, Blake. 1999. "Fifty-one Miles of Concrete," from *The Los Angeles River: Its Life, Death and Possible Rebirth*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.

Part Two: Water and Hazards

March 7: Experiencing Hazards

- Davis, Mike. 1998. "The Dialectic of Ordinary Disaster," from *Ecology of Fear*. New York: Henry Holt.
- McPhee, John. 1989. Excerpts from "Los Angeles Against the Mountains," in *The Control of Nature*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.
- Steinberg, Ted. 2001. "The secret history of natural disaster," *Env. Hazards* 3.

March 14: Managing Hazards *Research paper proposal due today*****

- White, Gilbert F, Robert W. Kates and Ian Burton. 2001. "Knowing better and losing even more," *Environmental Hazards* 3.
- Monmonier, Mark. 1997. "Floodplains, by definition..." from *Cartographies of Danger: Mapping Hazards in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago.
- ...and please examine one of the following:
- Colten, Craig. 2006. *An Unnatural Metropolis: Wrestling New Orleans from Nature*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press.
- Orsi, Jared. 2004. *Hazardous Metropolis: Flooding and Urban Ecology in Los Angeles*. Berkeley: University of California.

March 21: Vulnerability

- Cutter, Susan L. 2003. "The Vulnerability of Science and the Science of Vulnerability," *Annals AAG* 93(1.)
- Tobin, Graham. 1999. "Sustainability and community resilience," *Environmental Hazards* 1.
- Mustafa, Daanish. 2005. "The Production of an Urban Hazardscape in Pakistan," *Annals AAG* 95(3.)

Part Three: Water Futures

March 28: Modernity and Modernization

- Worster, Donald. 1993. "Thinking Like A River," Chapter 10 in *The Wealth of Nature*. New York: Oxford.
- Swyngedouw, Erik. 1999. "Modernity and Hybridity," *Annals AAG* 89(3.)
- Kaika, Maria. 2006. "Dams as Symbols of Modernization," *Annals AAG* 96(2.)

April 4: HydroPolitics

- Giordano, Mark. 2003. "The Geography of the Commons: The Role of Scale and Space." *AAG Annals* 93: 365-375.
- Michel, Suzanne. 2000. "Defining Hydrocommons Governance Along the Border of the Californias," *Natural Resources Journal* 40(4.)

April 11: SPRING BREAK (no class)

April 18: Attend relevant sessions at the AAG Annual Meetings.

April 25: *Research Paper Draft Due to Classmates*****

Discuss AAG sessions, exchange papers and meet as Panels to organize your presentations. (Nancy will be at NSF.)

May 2 - 16: Research Presentations

May 23: Seminar meets off-site *Research Papers due*****

