

HIS 300
Global History of Water

Summer Session-II

Satisfies: GLO, SBS+

Thematic Categories: "Health, Science & Environmental Change,"

Online, Asynchronous

Instructor: Karl Nycklemoe

Water is a fundamental part of life on Earth. Human history, since the beginning, has been tied to human access to water and, over time, the management and regulation of water and water bodies to serve human communities and states. Anthropogenic climate and environmental change are fundamentally re-writing human-water relationships, as drought, excess, and contamination of water becomes an increasingly common theme in our news cycles. This course reviews the historical thematic connections between water and humanity through the lenses of environmental and political history, and the environmental humanities. Key questions include: How have human societies attempted to regulate the movement of water and peoples in their sphere of influence? How is water tied to national poetics and international politics? How do societies react to water disasters? With a particular focus on the nineteenth century through today, this course is organized around thematic modules of rivers, groundwater, wetlands, oceans, and rain. As a global history course, this course focuses not on a linear narrative of history, but the complex historical contexts of particular case studies around the world. Students should expect to critically engage with several readings each week, submit weekly writing reflections, and a four-to-six-page critical analysis of a peer-reviewed article or scholarly case study of their choice.