

INTS 3900 – WATER
Spring 2011
Burton/Biniaz
TR 9-1015 (Sec 1) CRN #24503
and TR 1030-1145 (Sec 2) CRN #24504

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea*. New York: Scribner, 2003.
978-0-684- 80122-3

Maclean, Norman. *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2001. 978-0226500669

Solomon, Steven. *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. 978-0-06-054830-8

You will also need reliable and regular access to a computer and the internet to succeed in this course. Content will be delivered and most of your assignments will be submitted via Blackboard Vista. You will also need to be able to view YouTube videos and having a Netflix account and the ability to watch streaming videos from Netflix will help if you miss class on certain days. Additional readings will be distributed in the classroom, and available on the Course Content Page as PDFs. There are also supplemental readings and viewings available in Blackboard Vista, through the Weblinks tool, that are organized to reflect the major topics of the course. We will frequently post new links there that you may find interesting, particularly when it comes time to conduct your own research. We also encourage you to post links in Discussion Threads for your fellow students and instructors to access.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

INTS 3900: Water is an interdisciplinary exploration of the element of water. Science, religion, literature, art, philosophy, history, geography, ecology and geopolitics are all influenced and affected by this fascinating commonality. While we can learn to live without many things, we, literally, cannot live without water and humanity has always been bound by our ability to control water. In this course we will explore our relationship to water and the far-reaching impact it has on civilization.

INTS 3900 fills the requirement for a topics class for INTS students, and is open to any student with a sense of adventure and curiosity. You must have completed ENGL 1010 with a grade of C or higher, and you must be willing to commit to several hours of reading each week.

Success in INTS 3900 will come to those students who diligently read the assigned material weekly, attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. Curiosity and wonder will go a long way towards motivating students to dig a little deeper and search a little more for the hyperlinks and connections that make interdisciplinary scholarship interesting and enjoyable. Don't be afraid to share with the class when an assignment or discussion “reminds” you of something else. It is those connections that help us to further explore our humanity and interactions with the world around us. Man, that sounds really groovy, dude!

CAMPUS POLICIES:

As a public institution of higher learning, we have all kinds of rules and regulations we (students, faculty and staff) must adhere to. Those policies and procedures are outlined in official documents that can be accessed here:

<http://dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/#finals>

In links accessed from that page, you will find information regarding important dates on campus for the semester, the final exam schedule, Writing Center and Disability Resource Center information, and policies and procedures regarding academic honesty and student/faculty conduct. Should there be any question about campus policies and procedures, I will assume you have read the information available online in full.

It cannot be emphasized enough that if you feel you are in need of assistance from the Disability Resource Center you should seek them out immediately upon starting the semester. The sooner I am aware of the need for accommodation, the easier it is to make those accommodations. The help that the DRC offers is free and completely confidential.

IMPORTANT DATES ON CAMPUS:

Jan 10	Classwork Starts
Jan 12	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Jan 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Jan 25	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Jan 31	Graduation Application Deadline
Feb 1	Pell Grant Census
Feb 1	Last Day for Refund
Feb 1	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Feb 2	Courses dropped for non-payment
Feb 4	Last Day to ADD Classes
Feb 21	President's Day
Feb 28	Mid-Term Grades Due
Mar 4	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes

Mar 14-18	Spring Break
Mar 21	Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Mar 22	Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Mar 23	Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Mar 24	Summer Registration open to all students
Apr 1	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Apr 11	Fall Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Apr 12	Fall Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Apr 13	Fall Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Apr 14	Fall Registration open to all students
Apr 28	Classwork Ends
Apr 29	Final Exams
May 2-5	Final Exams
May 6	Commencement

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Our coursework revolves around the shared experiences of reading assignments, short lectures, video resources, and classroom discussion. While we will only take roll sporadically, your grade will be affected by missing class, if only because your writing assignments will reflect your disconnect from the ideas we are working with. Make friends with someone who you can trust to take good notes when you need to be gone. Since most of our assignments are submitted online, there will be no need to make accommodation for school-sponsored absences.

As this is a discussion and experience based class, I am anticipating and expecting our class time to sometimes include lively discussion, which may mean that your classmates introduce ideas and opinions that you do not agree with. While your opinion is always valid, please be aware that being rude, dismissive, or abusive while expressing that opinion will not only make you look foolish, but will result in your removal from our class. Egregious and recurring bad behavior will result in you being dropped from the class, and may result in a loss of tuition money. Play nice!

In keeping with the college's desire to fully utilize Blackboard Vista and make everyone's campus experience more uniform, we will use the Blackboard Email tool for communication in this class. This tool is easy to use and gives you access to us and to each other in a secure environment that doesn't risk your emails to a spam filter or typo in the address box. Ask for a demonstration of how to use the Email tool if you have questions. We will also use Blackboard Vista for Course Content delivery and Weblinks when appropriate. Please check in on Blackboard often for announcements and content.

GRADE SCALE AND CORRESPONDING GPA

A	94.0 and above	4	C	74.0 – 76.9	2
A-	90.0 – 93.9	3.7	C-	70.0 – 73.9	1.7
B+	87.0 – 89.9	3.3	D+	67.0 – 69.9	1.3
B	84.0 – 86.9	3	D	64.0 – 66.9	1
B-	80.0 – 83.9	2.7	D-	60.0 – 63.9	.7
C+	77.0 – 79.9	2.3	F	59.9 and below	0

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

Online Quizzes (15)	15%
Reflection Essays (5)	35%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	20%
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Total Grade	100%

Your grades will always be available to you in Blackboard Vista, and you can calculate your grade at any time by dividing the number of points earned by the number of points possible and applying the result to the grade scale provided above. Midterm grades will be posted when required by the college, and you can obtain a grade report for academic or athletic requirements at any time by printing out the page in Blackboard Vista labeled “My Grades” and bringing it to one of us for a signature.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Quizzes will be taken online every week, starting now and including Spring Break. The online quizzes will cover the reading from the large book, *Water*, and are available through Blackboard Vista, under the “Assessments” tool. Quizzes must be taken before midnight every Monday, and are open-book, unlimited-time quizzes. You will only be able to submit your answers once, so be sure of them before you click the Submit button. You are free to move through the quizzes more quickly than scheduled, but each one will become unavailable after the due date has passed.

Reflection Essays will be assigned 5 times during the semester. 4 of them will be based on reading and class discussions, and 1 will be based on viewing a long documentary that is available in multiple parts on YouTube. The documentary is also available in the DSC Library on VHS tapes. The prompts will be available at the appropriate times through Blackboard Vista, under the “Assignments” tool. Your Reflection Essays should be about 2 pages long, and will be submitted through Blackboard Vista. When submitting essays, you need to convert your document to PDF and attach it to the appropriate assignment. Essays that are submitted in any other format will be returned ungraded. While we will not be specifically grading for grammar and mechanics, this is an upper-division class and difficult mechanics can affect the communication of your ideas, so treat these reflections with enough respect to revise and edit them when necessary.

The Research Paper will be assigned after Spring Break, and will require you to conduct some individualized, outside research. You will have the opportunity to submit a topic proposal, so as we move through the semester, keep notes of the things that interest you and that you might want to learn about in greater depth. The Research Paper will need to be 7-10 pages and include citations of the research sources. It will be submitted on paper on the last day of class.

The Final Exam will be a take home exam, based on the vocabulary that we acquire through the semester and the major themes and ideas that we discuss. Active participation and keeping up with the reading and writing assignments will prepare you for the Final Exam. The Final Exam will be submitted in our classroom, on paper, during the scheduled Final Exam period.

Section 1 – Tuesday, May 3 8:00-10:00am

Section 2 – Thursday, May 5 9:30-11:30am

CLASS SCHEDULE – Always a Work in Progress

The Class Schedule, in its most current format, will always be available under “Syllabus” in Blackboard Vista. While it is correct as to overall format and plan, we will be adding in further mandatory readings for most weeks of coursework, so check back often.

Tues	Jan 11	Class Introduction and Blackboard Vista Tour
Thu	Jan 13	Submit Sample Quiz online for extra credit Read <i>A River Runs Through It</i> pp 1-51; stop at “she said ‘Yes.’” Submit Quiz #1 online <i>Water</i> Prologue and Chapters 1&2
Tues	Jan 18	Read <i>A River Runs Through It</i> pp 51 to end
Thu	Jan 20	Read “The Swimmer” by Cheever available on Course Content Investigate “Literature” through Weblinks Submit Quiz #2 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 3
Tues	Jan 25	Read “Gilgamesh XI” available on Course Content
Thu	Jan 27	Read “Storms and Noah” available on Course Content Investigate “Creation/Origin Myths” through Weblinks Submit Quiz #3 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 4
Tues	Feb 1	Read <i>The Odyssey Book XII</i> available on Course Content
Thu	Feb 3	Read <i>Siddhartha</i> 3 chapter excerpt available on Course Content Submit Quiz #4 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 5
Tues	Feb 8	Investigate “Eastern Philosophies” through Weblinks
Thu	Feb 10	Submit Literature Reflection online Investigate “Eastern Philosophies” through Weblinks Submit Quiz #5 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 6

Tues	Feb 15	Read “Qoranic Symbolism of Water” and “Water and Islam”
Thu	Feb 17	Read “Water in the Bible” and “Islam and Water Management Principles”
		Submit Quiz #6 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 7
Tues	Feb 22	Read excerpt of <i>The Wave</i> on Course Content
Thu	Feb 24	Submit Religion and Philosophy Reflection online
		Read excerpt of <i>The Power of the Sea</i> on Course Content
		Submit Quiz #7 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 8
Tues	Mar 1	Read “Tidal Misconceptions”
Thu	Mar 3	Read “Water: What’s So Special About It?”
		Submit Quiz #8 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 9
Tues	Mar 8	Read “What Sludge Tells You” and “Cryptosporidium”
Thu	Mar 10	Read “Global Water”
		Submit Quiz #9 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 10
Tues	Mar 15-17	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
		Submit Quiz #10 online <i>Water</i> Chapters 11&12
Tues	Mar 22	Investigate “Art and Music” in Weblinks WORLD WATER DAY
Thu	Mar 24	Submit Science Reflection online
		View “National Geographic” Tsunamis” video
		Submit Quiz #11 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 13
Tues	Mar 29	“Hoover Dam” video
		Discuss Research Paper Assignment
Thu	Mar 31	Read “Southwestern Water” Handouts
		Guest Speaker: Paul Van Dam – Lake Powell Pipeline
		Submit Quiz #12 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 14
Tues	Apr 5	Read “Hydrofracked”
		Begin “Blue Gold” documentary
Thu	Apr 7	Submit Water and Man Reflection online
		Read “Water Resource Management”
		Investigate “Economics” through Weblinks
		Submit Quiz #13 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 15
Tues	Apr 12	Read excerpts from Powell’s book
		View “Lost in the Grand Canyon”
Thu	Apr 14	View “Deep Water”
		Submit Quiz #14 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 16

Tues	Apr 19	Read "Hinduism" and "Tai Chi Chuan"
Thu	Apr 21	Read "Excerpts from Tao Ti Ching" Submit Quiz #15 online <i>Water</i> Chapter 17 and Epilogue
Tue	Apr 26	Read <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> pp 61; stop at "alone on the sea."
Thu	Apr 28	Submit Cadillac Desert Reflection online Submit Research Paper in classroom Read <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> pp 61 to end