



Water and Power ENVI/POLI/GEOG 252

T/R 9:40-11:10 OLRI 300 Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Roopali Phadke (phadke@macalester.edu)

Preceptor: Rachel Campbell (rcampbel@macalester.edu)

Fresh water has become one of the most fiercely guarded local and global resources. Drawing from the fields of political science, geography, anthropology, history, geology and hydrology, this course will take an interdisciplinary approach to studying water resources. With a focus on the Mississippi River, whose headwaters are in northern Minnesota and whose banks are a mile from campus, we will examine historical and emerging challenges to the equitable and sustainable use of waters. We will also meet with local artists, activists and scientists whose work centers around imagining how rivers heal and take fieldtrips that include paddling the river! We will address a range of controversial topics including energy production, indigenous rights, and cultural preservation.

The first part of the course will introduce students to analytical tools for evaluating the design of water projects and policy. The second part of the course will ask students to apply concepts from Part One toward assessing historical and contemporary case studies from the USA. Part Three will shift our attention to the international scene. We will examine inter-state/intra-state water conflicts and transnational social movements.

Learning goals for this course are:

- Gain interdisciplinary analytical tools for understanding the confluence of ecological, cultural, social and political perspectives
- Gain skills in writing, expert reading, visual and spatial analysis/representation, oral presentation and team work

Student Evaluation

We will do lots of different kinds of writing (low and high stakes), reading and presenting in this course. Our texts include research reports, journalistic news, and book chapters. We will learn to approach each of these differently, with attention to argument and evidence.

- **Attendance & participation (25%)**

I expect you to attend class and engage in our discussions. If you are ill, have a crisis or college required event, please email me 24 hours before class for an excused absence. Please respect our limited time together and do not make appointments (of any kind) that conflict with class.

***Zoom Policy:** This is not a hybrid class and online/zoom class will be used only in extenuating circumstances, such as for inviting a guest speaker to class.

- **Reading responses and other homework (30%)**

Submission of reading reflections and homework assignments (**10 in all**) are due by 5pm the day before class or when noted on the syllabus. In addition, I will ask you to attend and submit a response for at least **two** EnviroThursday or other ES-related events from the list on Moodle.

Your responses should be approximately 300-400 words long (about three paragraphs). They must be submitted on Moodle. Reflections will be graded on a five point scale: outstanding (A), excellent (A-), good (B+), satisfactory (B) or unsatisfactory (C). These are due **by 5pm the day before class** or when noted on the syllabus. These are concentrated in the first half of the semester.

- **Mississippi group project (15%)**

Midsemester we will dive into exploring the Mississippi River. Students will work in small groups to learn about a local site being reshaped with a focus on indigeneity. This assignment will include a self-guided fieldtrip and class presentation.

- **Biography of a River Storymap (30%)**

Every river has a story. The final research project will involve preparing a “Biography of a River” for your chosen river in the form of a Storymap. The Storymaps will be presented in class at the end of semester and will be peer evaluated. The final project grade breakdown is: River Proposal (10%), Workshop Outline (20%), Storymap Presentation (30%), Final submission (40%).

My Availability

I can usually meet after class. If you need more time, please make an appointment [here](#). I do not often answer emails outside of the typical work day (M-F 9-5 pm). It may take me 24 hours to reply depending on my other workload.

Academic Integrity

It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. This includes using ChatGPT to generate assignment responses. Please refer to the college’s policy on academic honesty. A first offense will cause you to get a failing grade on the assignment, and a second offense means you fail the class. Please speak to me if you are in doubt about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

In this course, you may use AI tools (such as Bard or ChatGPT) to help you generate ideas and to brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these tools may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that overuse of AI may stifle your own independent thinking and creativity, and use any tools (for generating text, code, video, audio, images, or translation) wisely and carefully.

You **may not** submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material—including both ideas and language—generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material, both in this course and at Macalester College in general. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

I will assign a **final** term grade by taking the following into account:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B. 70-79% = C 60-69% = D

The top 3% of each category will *typically* receive a "+" (e.g 87-90% will likely be a B+), and the lower 3% will receive a "-" (e.g. 90-93% is an A-).

Laptop and Cell Phone Use Policy

Laptop and tablet use (or other electronic devices that support learning) are fine to bring to classroom to advance learning. Cell phones must be silenced and stowed away during class meetings. Students that inappropriately use laptops, the Internet, and/or other digital technologies in ways that distract peers/instructors and subtract from the learning environment will be asked to remove them.

Accommodations

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at:

www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/

Student Health and Well-being

College life is stressful for most students. I know that you do a lot every day -- in and for our community. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, financial, etc., and how they can have an academic impact. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don't hesitate to contact me to find support.

**See Moodle for the day by day class schedule, links to readings and other general course info **