

AMST 394-01/ENVI 394-02  
FA 2021  
T-Th 3-4:30 PM  
Room: Hum 212

Asst Prof Kiri Sailiata  
ksailiat@macalester.edu  
Office: Humanities 101  
Office Hours: Wed 1:30-5pm



## TROUBLED WATERS: RACE, LAW AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Water is arguably one of the most important resources and sacred relationships shaping the fabric and trajectory of society. In recent years, the phrase, Mni Wiconi, ‘water is life’ emerged from Standing Rock and quickly became a central platform for global social struggles. Paying particular attention to interconnected social movements and legal cases across the Americas and Oceania, this course explores how Black, Indigenous and poor communities of color are currently and have historically, collectively strategized and navigated various systems of power to challenge and resist the violence enacted through and against water. Using theoretical constructs, legal and historical case studies, contemporary topics in politics and culture, and research methods, this course explores central questions such as: what are water politics? what do these cases reveal about water governance and racial justice? how do these legal struggles reveal ontologies of water? what is the history of water protests? what are the future challenges or visions for water justice? Over the course of this syllabus, we will map across varied geographies, emergent strategies and alternative futures where water is protected and liberated from enclosures. We will also work as a collective to produce a course podcast. Students will work collaboratively to research a legal case study and then develop, produce and

present their popular education segment. *Note: This syllabus is subject to change. The most updated version will be accessible via our course Moodle.*

Learning objectives:

- Students will learn key terms, concepts, and frameworks of American Studies
- Students will utilize academic research skills to gather data, analyze and present specialized topics for a diverse audience
- Students will learn and apply audio production skills
- Students will learn about race and power in the United States through the politics of water

OFFICE HOURS: These hours are an ideal opportunity for students to discuss class material, seek feedback on assignment ideas, or seek advice or mentorship. My office hours sessions are 30mn in length, so it is helpful to arrive with a plan and a sense of what you would like to discuss. I host both online as well as in-person office hours.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Podcast proposal [10%]
- 1<sup>st</sup> Podcast Segment: 8mn (Introduction of Group & Project) [10%]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Podcast Segment: 8mn (Reflections on Data Gathering)[10%]
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Podcast Segment: 8mn (Initial Data Analysis) [10%]
- Podcast Segments Feedback [5%]
- Podcast Workshop [10%]
- Final Project: 10-15mn Research Podcast segment [15%]
- Final Project Presentation [5%]
- Reading Reflections [10%]
- Attendance & Participation [15%]

We will have two labs with Tam Perlman who will offer instruction of podcast production.

### **Course Policies**

LATE WORK: Take a few minutes and look ahead on the syllabus and review your other course assignments to see when you might have multiple deadlines and plan ahead. Every member of this class is entitled to one 48-hour extension, no questions asked. You may use this extension for any assignment; however, you must notify me via email if you plan to use the extension.

**GRADE GRIEVANCE:** If you have a grade grievance you must wait 48 hours before submitting a written response to the instructor about your grade. Grade grievances are as likely to result in a higher grade as they are in a lower grade.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Worth a half-letter grade applied to an assignment, students should attend any campus or community event related to class (virtual or in-person). Thoughtful analysis is required; you will receive extra credit only if you make explicit connections between your selected event or text with concepts explored in the course materials. Extra credit papers are expected to follow these formatting conventions: two pages, double-spaced, with 1” margins and 12 pt Times New Roman font. The deadline for the extra credit assignment is Dec 9th.

### **Course Resources**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** It is important that everyone be able to participate in this class to the best of their ability and that we work together to make that happen. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in class, complete course assignment, and benefit from Macalester’s programs or services, please contact the Disability Services office as soon as possible. They are located in Kagin Hall and their web contact is listed below. If you need any accommodations for this course, please provide a copy of your Accommodation Determination Letter (provided by the Disability Services office) so that we can discuss the best way to implement them. More information may be found at:

<https://www.macalester.edu/disabilityservices/information-for-students/>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their college work; violations of academic integrity are serious offenses. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty -- including, for instance, forgery, cheating, and plagiarism - - are subject to disciplinary action. Examples of behavior that violates this policy, as well as the process and sanctions involved, can be found on the Academic Programs website, <http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/>.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **Week 1: Sept 1-3**

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Thurs, Sept 2: Introductions

#### **Week 2: Sept 6-12**

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##### **Unsettling Histories & Place**

Tues, Sept 7: \*No Class\* 12-1:30pm Guest Speaker—Dr. Kehaulani Vaughn (Info on Moodle)

Thurs, Sept 9: Class discussion and activities

#### **Week 3: Sept 13-19**

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##### **Decolonizing the Anthropocene**

- Kyle White. *Indigenous Climate Change Studies*.
- Heather Davis & Zoe Todd. *On the Importance of a Date, or Decolonizing the Anthropocene*.

Tues, Sept 14: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work  
Thurs, Sept 16: In-class discussion & activities

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#### **Week 4: Sept 20-26**

##### **Re-membering Water**

- Melanie Yazzie & Cutcha Risling Baldy. *Indigenous Peoples & the Politics of Water*
- Rosemary Georgeson & Jessice Hallenbeck. *We Have Stories: Five Generations of Indigenous Women and Water*.

Research Justice Toolkit Ch 1 Case Study #1

Tues, Sept 21: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work  
Thurs, Sept 23: In-class discussion & Activities

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#### **Week 5: Sept 27-Oct 3**

##### **Relationality & Social Movements**

- Kevin Bruyneel. *Wake Work vs Work of Settler Memory*.
- Kim Tall Bear. *Badass Indigenous Women Caretake Relations*.
- Research Justice Toolkit Ch1 Case Study #2

Tues, Sept 28: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work  
Thurs, Sept 30: In-class discussion & Activities  
\*Podcast Proposal Draft Due\*

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#### **Week 6: Oct 4-Oct 10**

##### **Environmental & Reproductive Justice**

- Lindsey Schneider. *(Re)producing the Nation: Treaty Rights, Gay Marriage, and the Settler State*.
- Elizabeth Hoover. *Environmental Reproductive Justice*.

Tues, Oct 5: Audacity Lab 1 with Tam Perlman  
Thurs, Oct 7: In-class discussion & Activities

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#### **Week 7: Oct 11-17**

##### **Global Water Governance**

- Heather Cooley, Newsha Ajami, Mai-Lan Ha, Veena Srinivasan, Jason Morrison, Kristina Donnelly, and Juliet Christian-Smith. *Global Water Governance in the Twenty-First Century*.
- Nicole J Wilson. *Seeing Water Like a State*.

\*Indigenous People's Day\*  
Tues, Oct 12: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work  
\*1<sup>st</sup> Podcast Segment Due\*

Thurs, Oct 14: In-class discussion & Activities

### **Week 8: Oct 18-24**

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#### **Water & Legal Personhood**

- *Whanganui River: Rights of Nature*
- *Klamath River and Rights of Legal Personhood*
- Podcast: *Klamath Water Wars* by Living Downstream

Tues, Oct 19: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work

Thurs, Oct 21: No Class

\*Fall Break\*

### **Week 9: Oct 25-31**

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#### **Standing Rock**

- Nick Estes. *Interview with LaDonna Bravebull Allard*
- Edward Valandra. *MniWiconi: Water is [More Than] Life*.
- Podcast: *Wet'suwet'en with Karla Tait* by the Red Nation [hosted by Nick Estes]
- Jaskiran Dhillon. *What Standing Rock Teaches us About Environmental Justice*.
- Andrew Curley. *Beyond Environmentalism: #NODAPL as Assertion of Tribal Sovereignty*.
- Michelle Cook. *Striking at the Heart of Capital: International Financial Institutions and Indigenous People's Human Rights*

Tues, Oct 26: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Podcast Segment Due\*

Thurs: Oct 28: In-class discussion & Activities

### **Week 10: Nov 1-7**

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#### **Flint Water Crisis**

- Michelle Cook. *Striking at the Heart of Capital: International Financial Institutions and Indigenous People's Human Rights*
- *Flint, Environmental Racism, & Racial Capitalism*. Laura Pulido.
- *From Flint to Standing Rock*. Kyle T Mays.
- Malini Ranganathan. *Thinking With Flint*.

Tues, Nov 2: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work \*Election Day\*

Thurs, Nov 4: In-class discussion & Activities

### **Week 11: Nov 8-14**

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#### **Dam Nations & The Winters Doctrine**

- *Shasta Dam*. Articles set.
- *Klamath Dam*. Articles set.

- *Don't Drown Our Culture* [8mn doc produced by Winnemem Wintu tribe]
- *A River Between Us* [91mn doc on Kanopy about Klamath River dam removal]
- Podcasts: Option 1: "On the Lower Four Snakes River Dam Removal" interview with Jim Waddell or Option 2: For the Wild interview with Lummi Nation rep Kurt Russo

Tues, Nov 9: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work  
 \*3<sup>rd</sup> Podcast Segment Due\*

Thurs, Nov 11: In-class discussion & Activities

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### **Week 12: Nov 14-21**

#### **Territorial law & Fish Relations**

- *Refracting the State Through Human-Fish Relations*. Zoey Todd.
- *American Samoa and the StarKist Tuna Cannery*. Joanna Poblete.
- *Water is Life but the Colony is a Necropolis*. Hilda Llorens, Maritza Stanchich

Tues, Nov 16: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work

Thurs, Nov 18: In-class discussion & Activities

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### **Week 13: Nov 22-28**

#### **Hawai'i Water Law**

- Maui Four Waters Case Articles set
- Mauna Kea Articles set

Tues, Nov 23: Remote Lecture, Guest Speaker, &/or Class Work

Thurs, Nov 25: No Class

\*Turkey Break\*

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### **Week 14: Nov 29-Dec 5**

#### **Toward A Future of Water Justice**

TBD

Tues, Nov 30: \*Final Project Workshop\*

Thurs, Dec 2: In-class discussion & Activities

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### **Week 15: Dec 6-12**

Final week of Class

Tues, Dec 7: Final Project deadline

Thurs, Dec 9: Listening Party!