

## Water World

**Instructor: Dr. Catherine Riihimaki**

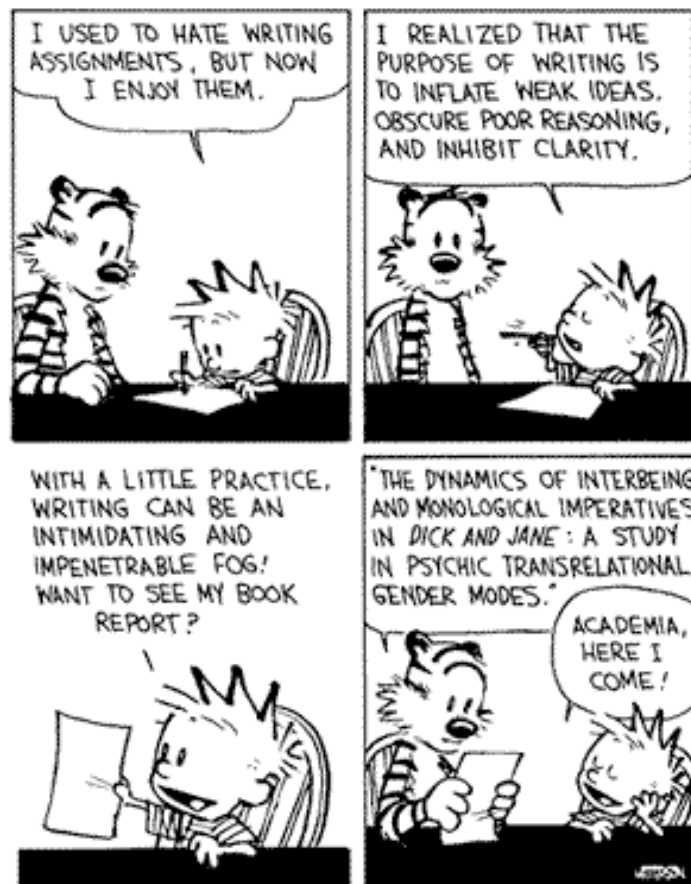
**Office/Contacts:** HSC 100 / x3349 / [criihimaki@drew.edu](mailto:criihimaki@drew.edu)

**Office hours:** Mondays 1-3 pm or by email appointment

**Meeting:** Monday and Friday, 12 - 12:50 pm

**College Mentor:** Mays Zubair, [mzubair@drew.edu](mailto:mzubair@drew.edu)

**Description:** Water is arguably our most precious resource. Dry regions like the Western U.S. obsess over how to get more water, while wet areas like the Eastern U.S. work to keep our water resources clean. Our history is inextricably linked to water, with cities and towns built around rivers that could be used for transportation, energy, irrigation, and consumption. Our future will be occupied with finding enough water for the needs of growing populations, a particular challenge as global climate change alters rain and snowfall patterns. In this seminar, we will delve into the science and politics of water to trace how it has shaped our world, and how it will influence our future.



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**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of the College Seminar, students will be able to:

- Enter into and participate in a scholarly conversation both orally and in writing;
- Comprehend, evaluate and analyze materials and texts (written, aural, visual, and numeric) as well as think synthetically and creatively about them;
- Evaluate and explain the appropriate use of different kinds of information from a variety of academic and non-academic sources
- Evaluate water usage and control locally and globally to assess whether human interactions with water resources are sustainable

**Grading:** The College Seminar is a collective exploration of a topic. Its success depends on the thorough preparation and participation of each of its members. Missing class means depriving yourself of the insights you will gain through discussion and depriving others in the room of your contributions. Therefore students are expected to be present at each meeting of the seminar and prepared to participate fully in the conversation. The College Seminar will be graded as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 50%

Attendance and participation are critical for your success in this class (and really all classes). Come to every class prepared for discussion of that day's topics. Participation will be evaluated on the basis of the attached rubric. You will not be penalized for absences covered by a Drew Policy (Religious Observance, Athletics, Serious Illness, Death in the Family). However, it is possible for you to miss so many classes that you cannot be considered to have taken the class and will not earn credit for it. **Attendance on a field trip on Saturday, Sept. 25 is required.**

Course Assignments: 50%

There will be frequent writing assignments to help you prepare for discussion and to reflect on readings. Homework assignments will focus on "write to learn" exercises that use writing to help you dig deeply into texts. These exercises will not be counted if you are not in class when they are due. We will also have occasional in-class writing assignments or oral presentations. These activities cannot be made up if you miss class.

**NOTE: No extra credit will be offered in this class.**

**Academic Accommodations:** Should you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Educational Affairs (BC 114, extension 3327). It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Educational Affairs and to provide me

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with the appropriate documentation from that office at least one week prior to any request for specific course accommodations. There are no retroactive accommodations.

**Academic Integrity:** All work in the College Seminar must adhere to the College Standards on Academic Integrity. You must do your own work. You must cite sources appropriately in all papers and presentations. You must acknowledge the contribution of other students to your work. Any student who is in violation of this policy will be referred to the Dean's Office for further action. The policy can be found at: [http://www.depts.drew.edu/composition/Academic\\_Honesty.htm](http://www.depts.drew.edu/composition/Academic_Honesty.htm)]

**DoNUT and Library Training:** This seminar is designed with the assumption that you will have completed both the orientation to the Drew Computing environment (DoNUT) and the orientation to basic use of the Drew Library, both of which are a part of the Common Hour, within the first four weeks of the semester.

**Final Thoughts:** The more engaged you are in the readings and discussion, the more you will get out of this seminar. Ask lots of questions, both of the materials and of Drew life more generally. Everyone involved in planning the College Seminars are working to make sure this sets you on the best path for the rest of your time at Drew. Take advantage of our willingness to help you!

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**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

	Week	Dates	Topic
Overview	1	August 30, September 3	<b>How to Read the Rhetoric</b> Hunterdon Today editorial Earth Day reading <hr/> Selection from <i>Exploring Geology</i> Assignment: <i>Where does your water come from?</i>
	<i>September 6: Labor Day</i>		
	2	September 10	<b>Water overview – where does your water come from?</b> “Bottled Twaddle” Writing assignment 1: <i>Should Drew ban bottled water from campus?</i>
	3	September 13, 17	<b>Setting Limits</b> Visualizations of water resources Assignment: <i>List 3 positive and 3 negative critiques of one of the visualizations</i> <hr/> “A Safe Operating Space for Humanity” “Earth’s Boundaries?” Writing assignment 2: <i>What is the purpose of “A Safe Operating Space for Humanity,” and do they achieve this goal?</i>
The Ocean and Coastline	4	September 20, 24	<b>The Control of Nature I</b> <i>The World Without Us: “The City Without Us”</i> Assignment: <i>List 3 ways in which we have modified NYC water</i> <hr/> “Shifting Sands of Sandy Hook” Writing assignment 3: <i>What is the author’s goal in “The City Without Us” and does Jersey Shore provide supporting evidence?</i>
	<i>September 25: Required field trip to Sandy Hook, NJ</i>		
	5	September 27, October 1	<b>Nature Is...</b> “Ocean Deep” from <i>Planet Earth</i> How do you view Nature? Writing assignment 4: <i>Complete the phrase “Nature is...”</i>
	6	October 4, 8	<b>Fisheries</b> “Epilogue” from <i>Four Fish</i> <hr/> “Counting the Last Fish” Writing assignment 5: <i>Why is it difficult to manage ocean resources?</i>
	7	October 11, 15	<b>Exploring the Ocean</b> Fish Banks, Ltd. game Assignment: <i>Be prepared to discuss fisheries game</i> Writing assignment 6: <i>Rewrite one of your previous papers</i>
<i>October 18-19: Reading Days, October 20: Monday classes meet</i>			

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	Week	Dates	Topic
Ice	8	October 20, 22	<b>Ice</b> “Terminal Ice” Assignment: Be ready to discuss ways we are drawn into the narrative <hr/> <i>Encounters at the End of the World</i> No writing assignment this week
The Gulf Coast	9	October 25, 29	<b>The Gulf Coast</b> This American Life: “In the Shadow of the City” “Drowning New Orleans” Writing assignment 7: Write an outline of “Drowning New Orleans”
	10	November 1, 5	<b>Katrina Reporting</b> On the Media: “Reporting Katrina” Assignment: Be ready to discuss why Katrina was so emotional Writing assignment 8: What are the strengths and weaknesses of different information formats?
The West	11	November 8, 12	<b>The West</b> 60 Minutes: “California – Running Dry” Assignment: Be able to summarize water conflict in CA <hr/> Sections of <i>Cadillac Desert</i> Writing assignment 9: Find a key passage in <i>Cadillac Desert</i> and elaborate on its meaning
Global Issues	12	November 15, 19	<b>Privatizing Water</b> <i>Tapped</i> Writing assignment 10: What is the main point of <i>Tapped</i> and how does the movie make this point?
Wrap-Up	13	November 22	<i>Rivers and Tides</i> : Andy Goldsworthy documentary
	<i>November 24-28: Thanksgiving recess</i>		
	14	November 29, December 3	<b>Wrap-up</b> This American Life: “Life Raft Project” Writing assignment 11: What lessons can you take from the Life Raft Project for your education at Drew?