

**Advanced Topics in International Relations:  
International Water Policy  
PLS 551**

**Course Instructor:**

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Sign up here for priority: <https://calendly.com/jessica-neafie/15min>

You may sign up for multiple sessions if you need to talk for a while.

**You may come even if you don't sign up and you may also meet by zoom**

### Course Description

The course focuses on how water and environmental resources can be managed through policy. The goal is to introduce the student to the complexities of the relationship between water, environmental and economic issues as well as introduce the students to the water-food-energy nexus. This course will involve a lot of reading and participation. It is a class about understanding the theories of policy making, then analyzing those theories, and then applying them in cases, both in group settings and in policy writing. We will discuss local, national, and international approaches to water policy but will pay particular attention to international issues. But water does not exist in any one of these areas alone and international water policy must be aware of the local and national issues or policies that exist. This course will provide a distinct policy and politics-focused approach to understanding water that incorporates politics, economics, and society into the learning environment.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define and contextualize key terms, trends, and organizations in global water policy.
2. Characterize, compare, and critically assess policy reforms and case studies in water governance, drawing on different perspectives and disciplines
3. Analyze a key problem in international water governance, through a policy brief that builds on individual research and applies the vocabulary and concepts from the course.
4. Develop effective communication skills including listening, speaking, and writing.

**I reserve the right to change this syllabus, including the course schedule, readings, and due dates. All changes will be announced in class and via Moodle.**

### Course Readings:

1. Abers, Rebecca Neara and Margaret E. Keck. (2013) Practical Authority: Agency and Institutional Change in Brazilian Water Politics. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. **EBOOK IN LIBRARY**
2. Anand, Nikhil. (2017) Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai. Durham: Duke University Press. **Open access:** <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/31718>
3. Bakker, Karen. (2010) Privatizing Water: Governance Failure and the World's Urban Water Crisis. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. **Free Download:** <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9780801467004/privatizing-water/#bookTabs=1>
4. Ostrom, Elinor (1990). Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

5. Sehring et al (2022). Gender Dynamics in Transboundary Water Governance. **Open Access:** <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/57635>
6. Xenarios, S. et al (eds). (2020) Aral Sea Basin: Water for Sustainable Development in Central Asia Open access and accessible through the library; there are physical copies available.
7. Selections from books and articles on the class Moodle page.
8. Current Event Information (Students should read a newspaper, watch television news, read online news sources, and/or listen to the radio news to learn about current events in preparation for class discussions and class assignments.)

\*\*\*\*You are responsible to read the assigned material *before* each class. The lectures will not restate the information in the readings but build from the information you learned while reading. The readings complement the lectures, and you will be required to know both to do well in the course. Discussions will be held on the assigned readings during the lectures and online. We might occasionally fall behind in the schedule but can catch up quickly.

### Requirements

Successful completion of the course will be based upon the following assignments. Students will be able to monitor their own progress through the course by using the point system and grading scale below

<b>Grades</b>	
<b>Final Journal Article Style Paper</b>	<b>30%</b>
Final Paper	20%
Proposal	2.5%
Detailed 3-page outline	2.5%
Peer Review (*2)	5%
<b>PodCast (group project)</b>	<b>15%</b>
Final PodCast (Due week 15)	10%
3 meetings with professor	2.5%
Outline	2.5%
<b>Book Clubs</b>	<b>40%</b>
Response Papers (5%*5, you may skip 1)	25%
Lead a Book Club (sign up week 1)	10%
Participation	5%
<b>Participation:</b>	<b>15%</b>
Case Study Days (4 groups of 5-6, 2 people will present each case study day); Come up with a policy action plan	5%
Pop Quizzes	5%
Reading Assignment	5%

## Course Requirements Explained

### Journal Article:

8000-word article related to some area of water management:

- Early on in the term, we will brainstorm possible topics and identify research resources. By week 9, students will produce a mini-proposal that includes a problem statement, brief introduction, and outline of methods.
- Week 12, students will submit a detailed outline of their policy brief to the professor
- Week 14, students will read 2 drafts from other students and write a peer review. The peer review is designed to help writers improve their structure, content, logic, and overall writing flow and will be due in week 15.
- A final version of the paper or policy brief, due during finals week.

### Social Media Podcast Video:

- Groups of students will create a 10–15-minute video for social media that makes use of modern multimedia technology.
- These should be understandable to a broad audience, and may be in English, Russian or Kazakh (with a translation handed in at the same time as the presentation), best PodCasts maybe posted online for the SKRI Youth Initiative. We will also be presenting these outside of just our class.
- There should be both audio and visual elements!

### Response Papers (x5)

- Through out the term we will have books (bolded in the schedule) that you will be required to write response papers for.
- Using the principles of the empathetic critique. A reading response is not just a platform for your unsubstantiated opinion; but a device to present your informed point of view, demonstrate your comprehension of the readings, and wrestle with the topic at hand.  
<https://empathy.guru/2015/09/28/what-does-empathetic-criticism-look-like/>
- The empathetic critique is a mode of critical expression that carefully assesses the nuances of an argument, outlines its productive points, and limits, and builds on its useful components to advance knowledge and the field as a whole. You are not being asked to regurgitate what you have read, but instead to process the readings.
- Response paper should consist of **approximately 1000 words**, double-spaced, 1" margins, page numbers, and stapled. They are due in printed hard copy format at the scheduled time of our meeting.
- **Late policy:** Response papers will not be accepted late. This policy is non-negotiable. It may seem arbitrary, but it is the only way to ensure that the papers serve their most important purpose (pre-class processing of ideas).
- **You must do the Ostrom Reading, and any four of the other readings.**

### Lead a book club

- As a graduate student I expect you to lead at least 1 book club (you may be paired with another student), these will be around 60 minutes long.
- You need to prepare thoughtful questions for the other students, and you may want to prepare a short introduction to the reading. (you may use powerpoint).

### Letter Grade

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
100 – 95.0 =	A	79.9 – 75.0 =	B-	59.9 – 50.0 =	D
94.9 – 90.0 =	A-	74.9 – 70.0 =	C+		
89.9 – 85.0 =	B+	69.9 – 65.0 =	C	49.9 – 0	= F
84.9 – 80.0 =	B	64.9 – 60.0 =	C-		

**Make-up Test Procedures** - No make-up examinations will be given unless arranged for in advance. It is the student's responsibility to notify me before the examination is given if s/he is unable to take the exam and provide an acceptable reason for the absence. Failure to follow this procedure will result in an automatic one-letter grade reduction for the test, and an additional one-letter grade per missed class period.

**Late Assignments** - All assignments are due by midnight on the dates listed in the Course Schedule. Failure to turn in the assignment on time, or to provide prior notification (with acceptable excuse), will result in an automatic 3% grade reduction for the assignment every day the assignment is missing. Late assignments will be accepted until Friday, 28 April, 2023.

**Grade Appeals or Challenges**: I am not infallible and may make grading errors. You may then email me to make an appointment to discuss the problem and fill out the grade appeal form. If you do not use the form and wait 48 hours your challenge will not be accepted. The only exception to 48 hours is if you believe your grade was calculated incorrectly, please still fill out the form. If you have fully read and understand the syllabus and would like 2 bonus points on your final grade, please send me a cat meme by email with the subject line "PLS 451\_Syllabus Read" by week 5!

If you have a question or concern regarding your performance on an assignment or an exam, **you must wait 48 hours** after the exam or assignment has been handed back to the class to contact me. You should also present an email statement that concisely expresses a substantive and legitimate reason for the request. "Substantive and legitimate" reasons include a grade miscalculation or a misunderstanding between the instructor and student, specifically in terms of the content of the student's work. Your appeal will be rejected if it does not satisfy these conditions. You have two weeks to appeal the assignment once the work is handed back to the entire class, and no grade challenges will be entertained afterward. Please also note that if you appeal a grade on an assignment and I decide to reexamine the assignment, the grade may go up or down. It will be treated as a new grade on the assignment, and all aspects of the assignment are open to reexamination.

**Communication with the Instructor**: If you have any suggestions, comments, and questions about the course, political science, or graduate school, feel free to email me to set up an appointment to chat. Please allow 24 hours for a response when contacting me during the week, and up to 48 hours on the weekends. I will use email and our Moodle site to communicate with you about course assignments, activities, and any changes to the course schedule or syllabus.

**Academic Integrity**: Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty/misconduct will not be tolerated. Cheating and dishonesty on tests/ assignments (using unauthorized sources of information, and/or providing or receiving unauthorized assistance of any form of academic work), and plagiarism (presenting someone else's material as your own) will result in an F for the assignment, and possible failure of the class and disciplinary action by the university.

It is your responsibility to know and abide by the Student Code of Conduct for Nazarbayev University. Violations of this policy may include, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism (including "patchwriting"), aid of academic dishonesty, fraud check-in, fabrication, and threatening behavior. These instances and other academic dishonesty/misconduct will be handled according to the requirements and procedures in the Student Code of Conduct for Nazarbayev University. Students should also be familiar with the university's official statement on academic misconduct, plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of documents:

**Academic misconduct** is an act in which a student:

1. Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation (plagiarism);
2. Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
3. Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
4. Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work or others;

5. Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of any student's academic performance;
6. Engages in any form of cheating on an exam or assignment;
7. Assists other students in any of these acts.

**Plagiarism** is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student's original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. Plagiarism occurs when a person:

1. Directly copies one or more sentences of another person's written work without proper citation. If another writer's words are used, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and include a footnote or other indication of the source of the quotation. This includes cut and paste from the internet or other electronic sources;
2. Changes words but copies the sentence structure of a source without giving credit to the original source, or closely paraphrases one or more paragraphs without acknowledgement of the source of the ideas, or uses graphs, figures, drawings, charts or other visual/audio materials without acknowledging the source or the permission of the author;
3. Submits false or altered information in any academic exercise. This may include making up data for an experiment, altering data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.;
4. Turns in all or part of assignment done by another student and claims it as their own;
5. Uses a paper writing service, has another student write a paper, or uses a foreign language translation and submits it as their own original work;
6. In computer programming class, uses computer code written by another student.

**Cheating.** Cheating harms the very fiber of the University community. Honest students are put at a disadvantage due to the unfairness of the act and the potential that the grading structure of the class may be altered to their disadvantage. Students who cheat do not receive a real education, depriving themselves of the experience of how to learn. Cheating also damages the reputation of the University as well as the fabric of society. Finally, cheating damages the ethics of the individual, teaching them a wrong approach to life that will not be sustainable in their future careers. Cheating occurs when a person:

1. Gains or provides unauthorized access to examination materials;
2. Uses notes, mobile phones, books, calculators or other materials/devices during an examination without the permission of the instructor;
3. Copies from another student's exam sheet with or without their permission or allow a student to copy from their exam sheet;
4. Obstructs or interferes with another student's efforts in an academic exercise;
5. States a dishonest reason in a request for an extension for an exam or paper;
6. Continue to write even when time is up during an exam;
7. Talks during an examination period;
8. Asks another student take an examination or quiz;
9. Commits any other action that gives a student an unfair advantage during an examination period or on any assignment being graded for credit;
10. Assists in, facilitates, organizes or arranges any of the above-mentioned actions.

**Falsification of documents.** Falsification of documents is a form of academic dishonesty that deliberately seeks to misrepresent some aspect of the student. Falsification of Documents occurs when a person:

1. Presents a falsified application form, financial aid form or any other official form submitted to the University;
2. Presents a falsified or misleading medical certificate in order to obtain an excuse for a class absence, examination absence or late work or for any other reasons;
3. Uses a falsified or illegally altered student identification card;
4. Tampers with transcripts or other academic records.

Week		Theme	Readings
1	January 9	Introduction+SQ3R	
2	January 16	Governing the Commons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bryan Bruns and Ruth Meinzen-Dick (2005) "Frameworks for water rights: An overview of institutional options" (pp. 3-25), in Bryan Bruns et al (2005) Water Rights Reform. Open Access Book: <a href="https://www.ifpri.org/publication/water-rights-reform-lessons-institutional-design">https://www.ifpri.org/publication/water-rights-reform-lessons-institutional-design</a></li> <li>2. Elinor Ostrom (1999) "Coping with tragedies of the commons" American Review of Political Science 2: 493-535</li> </ol>
3	January 23	IWRM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biswas, A. K. (2008). Integrated water resources management: is it working? International Journal of Water Resources Development, 24(1), 5-22.</li> <li>2. Petit, O. (2016). Paradise lost? The difficulties in defining and monitoring Integrated Water Resources Management indicators. Current opinion in environmental sustainability, 21, 58-64.</li> </ol> <p><b>Book Club 1:</b>  <b>Ostrom, Elinor (1990). Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-40599-7</b></p>
4	January 30	Water-Food-Energy Nexus and the Ecosystem Nexus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cooley, et al., "Water Risk Hotspots for Agriculture" OECD Report</li> <li>2. Hendrix, "When Hunger Strikes: How Food Security Abroad Matters for National Security at Home" CCGA Report</li> <li>3. Braga, et al., "Water and Energy" from Water and the Future of Humanity</li> <li>4. Gleick, "Water, Drought, Climate Change, and Conflict in Syria" Journal of the American Meteorological Society</li> </ol>
5	February 6	Social Justice in Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Edwards, Marc A. and Amy Pruden. (2016). "The Flint Water Crisis: Overturning the Research Paradigm to Advance Science and Defend Public Welfare." Environmental Science &amp; Technology. doi:10.1021/acs.est.6b03573.</li> <li>2. Zwartveen, Margreet Z. and Rutgerd Boelens (2014) "Defining, researching and struggling for water justice: some conceptual building blocks for research and action" Water International 39(2): 143-158</li> <li>3. Flora Lu, Constanza Ocampo-Raeder, and Ben Crow (2014) "Equitable water governance: future directions in the understanding and analysis of water inequities in the global South" Water International 39(2): 129-142</li> </ol> <p><i>Optional additional reading:</i></p>

			<p><i>Farhana Sultana and Alex Loftus (eds) (2012) The Right to Water: Politics, Governance and Social Struggles London: Earthscan</i></p> <p><b>Book Club 2:</b>  <b>Sehring et al (2022). Gender Dynamics in Transboundary Water Governance.</b>  <b>Open Access: <a href="https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/57635">https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/57635</a></b></p>
6	February 13	Economics of water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Garrick, D. E., Hanemann, M., &amp; Hepburn, C. (2020). Rethinking the economics of water: an assessment. <i>Oxford Review of Economic Policy</i>, 36(1), 1-23.</li> <li>2. Olmstead, S. M. (2010). The economics of managing scarce water resources. <i>Review of Environmental Economics and Policy</i>, 4(2), 179-198.</li> <li>3. Karen Bakker (2014) "The business of water: market environmentalism in the water sector" <i>Annual Review of Environmental Resources</i> 39: 469-494</li> <li>4. Ken Conca (2006) "Invisible hand, visible fist: the transnational politics of water marketization" from <i>Governing Water</i> (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press) pp. 215-255</li> </ol> <p><b>Book Club 3:</b>  <b>Bakker, Karen. (2010) Privatizing Water: Governance Failure and the World's Urban Water Crisis. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (Free Download: <a href="https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9780801467004/privatizing-water/#bookTabs=1">https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9780801467004/privatizing-water/#bookTabs=1</a>)</b></p>
7	February 20	Water Security and Water Conflict "Blue Gold: Water Wars (2009)"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CNA. 2017. The Role of Water Stress in Instability and Conflict. CRM-2017-U-016532. <a href="https://www.cna.org/archive/CNA_Files/pdf/crm-2017-u-016532-final.pdf">https://www.cna.org/archive/CNA_Files/pdf/crm-2017-u-016532-final.pdf</a></li> <li>2. Gerlak, A. K., et al (2018). Water security: A review of place-based research. <i>Environmental Science &amp; Policy</i>, 82, 79-89.</li> <li>3. Staddon, C., &amp; Scott, C. A. (2018). Putting water security to work: addressing global challenges. <i>Water International</i> 43(8): 1017-1025.</li> </ol>
8	February 27	Transboundary Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aaron T. Wolf (1999) "Conflict and cooperation along international waterways" <i>Water Policy</i> 1 (2), pp. 251-265. Access free of charge here: <a href="http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/publications/conflict_coop/">http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/publications/conflict_coop/</a></li> <li>2. Chris Sneddon and Coleen Fox (2006) "Rethinking transboundary waters: A critical hydrogeopolitics of the Mekong basin" <i>Political Geography</i> 25 (2): 181</li> <li>3. Emma Norman and Karen Bakker (2009) "Transgressing scales: Water governance across the Canada-U.S. borderland" <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 99 (1): 99-117</li> </ol>

			<p>4. Maria Kaika and Ben Page (2003) "The EU Water Framework Directive: Part 1, European policy-making and the changing topography of lobbying" <i>European Environment</i> Vol. 13, pp. 314-327</p> <p>5. Ben Page and Maria Kaika (2003) "The EU Water Framework Directive: Part 2, Policy innovation and the shifting choreography of governance" <i>European Environment</i> Vol. 13, pp. 328-343</p>
9	March 6	Policy Narratives and Expert Networks	<p>1.</p> <p><b>Book Club 4:</b>  <b>Abers, Rebecca Nera and Margaret E. Keck. (2013) Practical Authority: Agency and Institutional Change in Brazilian Water Politics. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.</b></p>
10	March 13	Climate Change and Water Futures	<p><b>Desalination:</b></p> <p>1. Jamie McEvoy and Margaret Wilder (2012) "Discourse and desalination: Potential impacts of proposed climate change adaptation interventions in the Arizona-Sonora border region" <i>Global Environmental Change</i> 22 (2), pp. 353-363</p> <p>2. Erik Swyngedouw (2013) "Into the sea: desalination as hydro-social fix in Spain" <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 103(2): 261-270</p> <p><b>Recycling Water:</b></p> <p>3. Katharine Meehan, Kerri Jean Ormerod, and Sarah A. Moore (2013) "Remaking waste as water: the governance of recycled effluent for potable water supply" <i>Water Alternatives</i> 6(1): 67-85.</p> <p>4. Kerri Jean Ormerod (2016) "Illuminating elimination: public perception and the production of potable water reuse" <i>Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs): Water</i> 3 (4): 537-547.</p> <p><i>Optional (for those interested in this topic):</i>  <i>Kerri Jean Ormerod (2017) "Common sense principles governing potable water recycling in the southwestern US: examining subjectivity of water stewards using Q methodology" <i>Geoforum</i> 86(1): 76-85.</i></p> <p><b>Book Club 5:</b>  <b>Anand, Nikhil. (2017) Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai. Durham: Duke University Press. Open access:</b>  <b><a href="https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/31718">https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/31718</a></b></p>



11	March 20	Spring Break	
12	March 27	Case Study: Aral Sea Basin	<b>Book Club 6:</b> <b>Xenarios, S. et al (eds). (2020) Aral Sea Basin: Water for Sustainable Development in Central Asia Open access and accessible through the library; there are physical copies available.</b>
13	April 3	Case Study: Caspian Sea Basin	
14	April 10	Case Study: The Indus River Treaty	1. Dinar, "Water, Security, Conflict, and Cooperation" SAIS Review 2. Troell & Swanson, "Adaptive Water Governance and the Principles of International Water Law" in Transboundary Water Governance: Adaptation to Climate Change 3. Devlin and Hendrix, "Trends and Triggers Redux: Climate Change, Rainfall, and Interstate Conflict" Political Geography 4. Chellaney, "Rivers of Conflict Between India and Pakistan" Nikkei Asian Review
15	April 17	PodCasts	
16	April 24	Finals Week	Final Paper Due