Water Sustainability in the Western U.S.
GES 180A4

3 Credits
TuTh 11:00-12:15  Clark A 204
CRN: 80884

Instructor and Course Coordinator
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This is a multi-disciplinary introduction to the issues surrounding the most important challenge to the sustainability of life in the western U.S.
- The role that water plays in supporting human populations, agriculture and wildlife
- The history of water development in the West
- The processes that govern the allocation of water
- How water infrastructure allows it to be moved and used
- Challenges to the sustainability of water resources: population growth, climate change, impacts on water quality

Learning Objectives
Students successfully completing the course will be able to
1. Describe the history of water development in the western U.S.
2. Explain how water is managed and used in the western U.S.
3. Describe the characteristics of water that are related to its suitability for different uses
4. Explain how the climate and landscape of the West affects water availability and use
5. Describe the basic elements of water related laws that govern its administration and quality
6. Explain how public attitudes and values affect water management and use in the West
7. Identify current CSU water-related programs, research and outreach activities.

Course Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Reinforcement of class topics</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers</td>
<td>Thoughtful responses to class presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water in the News</td>
<td>Short synopsis of recent news reports related to water issues from the general circulation media</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis and Opinion Paper</td>
<td>Critical analysis of an issue related to water sustainability in the western United States</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>A review of a book selected from a list provided</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Analysis and interpretation of water issues</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Reading Materials
- The Colorado Water Plan, 2015*
- Other readings will be provided on Canvas
*Available online without charge. Links will be provided on Canvas