



HIST 492: Senior Capstone – Headwaters and Rivers in the History of the American West

M 12:00-2:50

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Water defines the American West. We play in it, drink it, and water the lawns with it. Yet, it is scarce, leading to questions of how we use its limited yet essential resource, and who gets to decide. Based upon CSU's Water Resources Archive, this capstone will trace water's central role in the shaping the region's history over the past two hundred years, training students how to both conduct original research and think historically. This course is divided into three units, each will walk students the history of water in the region as well as historical methodology and writing. Course readings will focus on both the history of water as well as historical methodology. Classes will be discussion based at the end of which students will write an original historical essay.

Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe the role water has played in the American West's economic, technological, and cultural history.
- Analyze continuity and change over time in relation to the history of water and the American West.
- Analyze and interpret both primary and secondary sources pertaining to the history of western water.
- Demonstrate and improve skills in communicating about the past through speech and writing, using evidence according to the standards of the historical discipline.
- Demonstrate understanding and use of concepts through researching, writing, and presenting original historical work.

Required Readings

- Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*
- Jen Brown, *Trout Culture: How Fly Fishing Forever Changed the Rocky Mountain West*
- William deBuys, *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*
- Kevin Fedarko, *The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History Through the Heart of the Grand Canyon*
- Patricia Limerick, *A Ditch in Time: The City, The West, and Water*
- Eric Perramond, *Unsettled Waters: Rights, Law, and Identity in the American West*

Expectations

- This is a discussion-based course. In order for it to work students are expected to attend every class, prepared, and on time.
- Cell phones are not to be used unless as a part of the class. The same goes for laptops and other devices. You are here to learn; social media will live without you for three hours.
- Similarly, studying for other classes during class time is distracting to your fellow classmates and offensive to your professor.
- Students are expected to spend at least 2 hours working on the course for every contact hour within the classroom. This means you should be spending 6 hours per week on this course beyond class time.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for ensuring that your work is above any suspicion of plagiarism. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles published in the CSU General Catalog (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/#academicintegritymisconduct>) and the Student Conduct Code (<https://resolutioncenter.colostate.edu/conduct-code/>). The penalty for plagiarism or any other infraction of academic integrity is automatic failure of the class, and your case will be reported to Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. In short, don't cheat. Leave that to Tom Brady and Bill Belichick.

Grades

All grades are based upon points earned for assignments and then assigned a letter grade from the table below.

Letter	Percentage
A	93-100% - Excellent
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86% - Good
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76% - Satisfactory
D	60-69% - Poor (but passing)
F	0-59% - Failing



Assignments

Class Participation TOTAL POINTS 100

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Student attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every class meeting. Students will receive a grade out of 100 based on the percentage of the total of classes they attended and participate. There is no make-up for missed class as students' physical presence in class is requisite to learning. The professor reserves the right to cancel a physical class meeting. If a cancellation occurs, students will be informed in advance via email and the canceled class session will not count toward the attendance total.

River Connection Paper 100 points

Students will write a 500-word essay on their connection to a western river. Connections must include the river basin, how they use, view, understand the river, and reflections on its role in their lives.

Reading Discussion Lead 100 points

Each Student will be responsible in leading a weekly class discussion on that week's assigned reading. They will present a 5 to 10-minute overview of the reading, connect it to the class theme, and provide *at least* three broad questions for discussion.

Archival Collection Assessment Essay 100 points

Students will choose a single collection out of the Morgan Library Special Collection's Water Resources Archive. Then they will look through its finding aid identifying at least two folders of interest. They will then email for an appointment with special collections to visit the archive and read through the folders (or boxes) they have identified as interesting. Finally, they will write a 1,000-word essay that identifies the collection, describes its contents, provides examples and a discussion of its materials, and provide at least two ways to use those materials in a final historical essay.

Final Essay 100 points

Students will write a 1,500 to 2,000-word research paper based upon archival sources. Each paper will have a clearly articulated thesis, strong supporting evidence, and place the topic into the broader context of American history. Final drafts are expected to be grammatically correct, well written, and follow Turabian/Chicago style citation.



UNIT ONE: WATER IN THE WEST

Week One

August 26 – Welcome and What are we in for this semester?

What is your connection to water?

Film: *Chasing Water*

Mapping water in the American West

Week Two

September 2 – **LABOR DAY: NO CLASS**

Required Reading: *The Emerald Mile* (Launch, Leviathan, Part I, Part II)

Week Three

September 9 – What Research is and how researchers think

Required Reading: *The Emerald Mile* (Part III, Part IV)

Turabian, Chapter 1, Chapter 2

Week Four

September 16 – Sources

Required Reading: *The Emerald Mile* (Part V, Part VI)

Turabian, Chapter 3, Chapter 4

Read over and be familiar with Colorado Water Guide Library Guide

at: <https://libguides.colostate.edu/c.php?g=64957&p=417372>

Week Five

September 23 – Planning

Required Reading: *The Emerald Mile* (Part VII)

Turabian, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, Chapter 7

River Connection Paper due via Canvas by 11:59 pm



UNIT 2: RESEARCH

Week Six

September 30 – Drafting

Required Reading: *Trout Culture*

Turabian (Chapter 7, Chapter 8)

Week Seven

October 7 – Revising

Required Reading: *Trout Culture*

Turabian (Chapter 9, Chapter 10)

Week Eight – **NO CLASS**

Week Nine

October 21 – Learning from comments

Required Reading: *Unsettled Waters*

Turabian (Chapter 11, Chapter 12)

Week Ten

October 28 – Presenting your work

Required Reading: *Unsettled Waters*

Turabian (Chapter 13, Chapter 14)

Archival Collection Assessment Essay due via Canvas by 11:59



UNIT 3: WRITING

Week Eleven

November 4 – Citations

Required Reading: *A Ditch in Time*

Turabian (Chapter 15, Chapter 16)

November 7 – **Attend Dr. Kent Blansett's Talk** for 20 points extra credit (turn in one-page overview of talk to Dr. Childers's email by November 11 at midnight)

Week Twelve

November 11 – Citations 2: Revenge of the Semicolon

Required Reading: *A Ditch in Time*

Turabian (Chapter 17, Chapter 18)

Week Thirteen

November 18 – Style

Required Reading: *A Ditch in Time*

Turabian (Chapter 20, Chapter 21)

November 25 – **FALL RECESS**

Week Fourteen

December 2 – Presentations of Draft Essay

Required Reading: *A Great Aridness*

Week Fifteen

December 9 – Final Thoughts

Required Reading: *A Great Aridness*

Week Sixteen

December 16 – **Final Essay Due via Canvas by 11:59**