

Center for Water & Society Colloquium: Spring 2009

Climate Change and the Sustainability of Water Resources

UN 5990, CRN 14308, 1 credit

Fridays 4:00-5:00

Course Objectives: (1) build towards a common literacy on the effects of climate change on water resources; (2) identify areas of common interest among students and faculty with an eye towards potential areas of collaboration on research projects or other initiatives, in the area of effects of climate change on water resources. The course will focus on impacts of climate change, mitigation of climate change impacts, and adaptation to climate change impacts as related to topical areas such as engineered water supply systems, water quality, freshwater ecosystems, agriculture and food security, water resources in developing countries, human health, and water-related natural hazards.

Course Leaders: Alex Mayer (asmayer), Tom Pypker (tgpyker), and Kathy Halvorsen (kehalvor)

Prerequisites: This course is oriented towards graduate students and faculty, but undergraduates will be admitted by permission of course leaders.

Format: Each week, participants will read a journal paper or scientific report in preparation of discussion sessions on Fridays. Discussion sessions will be lead by a group of students and faculty. This group will prepare a few questions or comments the week preceding the discussion and send these to the class as to focus the discussion. The group will begin the discussion session with a summary of the major issues covered the preceding week's reading. It is expected that both students and faculty will participate in the discussions as equals. *Snacks and beverages will be served.* After the "formal" one-hour discussion session, course participants will be invited to stay and continue the discussion. Lecturers from off campus will be invited some weeks during the semester and will participate in leading the discussions. In these cases, the timing of the course meetings may change. Students will be expected to (a) produce and present a poster on a relevant topic for the Center for Water & Society's World Water Day poster session (March 23, 2009) and (b) write and submit a 5-page synthesis paper due at the end of the term.