

AG 507—Water Issues & Ethics
Course Syllabus

Dr. Bob Williams
903-886-5350
Bob.Williams@tamuc.edu

Text:

There is no textbook for this class. However, the materials used in the class will be available online through designated hyperlinks in the D2L online course management tool. You may access D2L through *you myleo* account.

Timeline and Procedures

This course is designed to be completed over a four-week span and consists of 8 modules. Each module has two or more discussion prompts but overall, participation in each module's full discussion (response all prompts) is worth 30 points toward the course total. Discussion should be your own and not a revised version of what another student has posted. In some cases, you will have to review all prior posts related to a prompt to ensure that your post is not offering the same example. **Discussions must be posted by 11:30 p.m. the due date.**

There will be an assignment folder associated with each assignment. You will need to follow the directions and upload your assignment to this assignment folder. If you have technical difficulties or extenuating circumstances, you should email me or call me at my personal cell number, 903.xxx-xxxx. **Do not text me!**

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss water issues and ethics in informed and civil discourse.
2. Interpret water laws and policies in context of landowner, farmer, and consumer.
3. Identify key factors contributing to water use, quality, and distribution.
4. Apply economic and social theories to water planning and development.
5. Utilize maps and data to compare geographic availability and uses of water.
6. Analyze abstracts/executive summaries UN water policy statements and proposals.
7. Compare water laws and conservation practices in the United States.
8. Recognize agencies and organizations involved in Texas water planning and protection.
9. Consider the economic and ecological factors associated with regional water planning in Texas.
10. Compose position papers, policy abstracts, and/or reflective essays related to:
 - a. water as a human right,
 - b. Water as an economic good,
 - c. Water as a private property right,
 - d. Water for recreation,
 - e. Water for industrial, agricultural, and/or commercial use.

11. Distinguish between scientific, emotional, and philosophical promotional media.
12. Develop a personal policy statement on water use, conservation, and ownership.
13. Identify contemporary issues regarding global water use and conservation.
14. Present examples of instructional resources and professional development row water education and outreach.

Grade Determination:

	<i>Possible Points</i>
Online interaction and discussion participation	240
Reflective essay regarding water as human or property right	100
Written report over water protection or conservation initiative/technology	100
Poster presentation over a proposed regional water development project	100
Resource example of a teaching resource/professional development	100

$$\text{Your Grade (\%)} = \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{640}$$

Online Interaction and Participation in Discussions

Students are expected to discuss experiences and observations, as well as ask questions. By discussing issues and asking questions online, you will reinforce learning through a multi-sensory approach. The instruction evaluation tools on D2L allows the instructor to monitor time spent online.

Reflective Essay over Water as a *Human* or *Property* Right

Students will submit an essay reflecting on issues, ideas, and ethical considerations presented in class in context of their personal experiences, observations, and philosophies which will be submitted to **the corresponding assignment folder in D2L**.

Written Report over a Water Protection or Conservation Initiative

Students will compose a “term paper” that describes in 2-3 pages a water protection or conservation initiative or project. This can be a media campaign, pollution prevention project, or conservation project. This may be a local, regional, national, or international initiative. It is expected that there will be a *minimum of three sources* of information upon which the paper is based. An abstract summarizing key points of the paper is also required. Completed assignment should be submitted to **the corresponding assignment folder in D2L**.

Poster Presentation over a Proposed Regional Water Development Project

Students will be provided a Texas Regional Water Development Plan that contains detailed descriptions of several proposed projects such as pipelines, dams, lakes, desalinization plants, etc. Each student will select one proposed project from the plan and use the *Innovative Idea* poster concept from American Association for Agricultural

Education to develop one-page, conference-type poster that conveys relevant information about the proposed project. The poster will be developed using a PowerPoint slide template and will be submitted to **the corresponding assignment folder in D2L**.

Description of an Instructional Resource or Professional Development Opportunity

Each student will submit a 1-2 paragraph description about an instructional resource or professional development opportunity available for teachers. The report should be in MS Word or PDF and be submitted to **the corresponding assignment folder in D2L**.

Syllabus Addendum for Dr. Bob Williams for the Spring 2021 Semester

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are available for student conferences with the professor for additional course support and, if applicable, academic/career advisement. The following hours will be maintained for this purpose, provided they are not circumvented by administrative assigned tasks beyond the professors control, professional travel to conferences or meetings, or medical appointments for professor or his household dependents.

Monday	9:00-11:50 a.m.
Tuesday	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Thursday	by appointment
Friday	by appointment

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course. You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The professor and GAs or SIs will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor. Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Sandi.Patton@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COVID-19 Conditions and Response

During this COVID pandemic, you may face periods of isolation or restriction of movement. Since this is an online course, it is designed for your completion from anywhere that internet access exists. If you do not have internet access in your current residence, you need to identify how you will access your assignments if you cannot leave. This may include the use of a smart phone or other digital device that can offer connectivity. Most assignments can be completed offline, but the internet may be required for research, online discussions, and the uploading of assignments/projects. If you have a medical reason for an assignment to be delayed, I will excuse that. Internet access, or the lack of it, is not a medical excuse.

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The professor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.