

**McMaster Discovery Program 2018**  
**Diving in: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Water**  
[www.artsci.mcmaster.ca/mcmaster-discovery-program](http://www.artsci.mcmaster.ca/mcmaster-discovery-program)

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**Course dates:** Saturdays from 8 September to 8 December, 2018. No class on 6 October.

**Time:** 10:30am-2:30pm (includes lunch)

**Agenda (see weekly outline):**

10:30 am-12 pm: guided discussions with course instructor

12-12:45 pm: lunch (provided)

12:45-2:15 pm: workshop, structured discussion, activity, or homework time

**Location:** LRW 1057 (see weekly outline for changes)

**Faculty:** Dr. Kimberley Dej, [dejkim@mcmaster.ca](mailto:dejkim@mcmaster.ca)

**Coordinator:** Melissa Ricci, [riccimm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:riccimm@mcmaster.ca), 905-525-9140 ext. 24066

- Coordinator office hours: see course schedule

**Student Support Team:**

- Sydney Potts ([pottss3@mcmaster.ca](mailto:pottss3@mcmaster.ca))
- Emma Reilly ([reillye@mcmaster.ca](mailto:reillye@mcmaster.ca))
- Theodore Simantirakis ([simantit@mcmaster.ca](mailto:simantit@mcmaster.ca))
- Emma Yim ([yime1@mcmaster.ca](mailto:yime1@mcmaster.ca))

**Course Description:** In this course we will examine the role of water in our lives and society, paying special attention to the water systems of Hamilton. The course will incorporate a variety of perspectives on the topic, including discussions of the scientific significance of water, the importance of water in communities and ecosystems, and the effects of policy on bodies of water.

**Course objectives: In this course, you will:**

- Develop an understanding of issues related to local water quality and access 
- Explore water from a number of academic perspectives, including ecology, biology, chemistry, the social sciences (e.g. political studies), and humanities 

- Develop an understanding of water in our policies, society, and economy 
- Participate in field trips to research labs at McMaster to gain a hands-on understanding of the importance of water 
- Examine a topic of interest to you related to water and/or water systems 
- Strengthen your reading, writing, and research abilities 
- Increase your skills in interpreting and evaluating information 
- Develop your own final project in writing, art (including music), or in media such as photography, video, or Electronic Book (to be discussed in class) 

**Project:** During this course you will complete a project based on class themes. This project can be done alone or in groups. The afternoon portion of class will often be dedicated to project work. The SST will be around to help you in this process. **If you need additional help with your project, please let us know so we can arrange a time to help you.**

The project can explore any theme you wish. To help guide you, here are some prompting questions and ideas that you may wish to explore in your project:

- Communicate an aspect of water
- Activism and water: what can be done to ensure future access to water for our society and societies around the globe?
- What is your relationship with water? How can this be expressed?
- There will be an option of including your project as a section in an interactive book or to make your project as an interactive book. We will talk about this with you as the course goes on!

## Important Notes

*We will support you*

We want you to enjoy the course and grow through your experience with each other and with the subject matter we are studying. Kim, Melissa, and the student support team are committed to ensuring that you are supported and encouraged on your way to success in the course. Tell us how we can help you!

*Feedback on Projects*

You will not be assigned a grade for this course, but the instructor will provide written comments on your final projects once they have been completed.

### *Working with and respecting one another*

Students, professor, coordinator, and the Student Support Team will all treat one another with courtesy. Everyone's voice is important and is to be respected. Behaviour that interrupts, impedes, or belittles others will not be allowed. If discourteous or disturbing incidents occur, you may be asked to stop attending the course.

### *Attendance policy*

The course will succeed only if you are committed to attending all classes. A good learning environment depends on students and teachers knowing each other and being able to rely on each other to be prepared for class and ready to contribute to discussions. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. If you miss a class, you will be expected to make up the work. If you miss more than 2 classes and have not contacted Melissa to explain why you missed the classes, you may be asked to stop attending the course.

### *Class schedule*

This schedule is a guide for our class activities and assigned readings. This schedule may be modified if necessary. Should we need more time on a given subject, we will be flexible in order to give the class enough time to discuss the material.

Homework for this course will take about an hour a day, though sometimes it may take longer. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings each week and/or to have completed any assigned activity.