Course dates: Saturdays from 7 September to 7 December, 2019. No class on 12 October.

Time: 10:30am-2:30pm (lunch is provided)

Agenda (see weekly outline):
10:30 am-12 pm: guided discussions with course instructor
12-1 pm: lunch (provided)
1-2:30 pm: workshop, structured discussion, activity, or homework time

Faculty: Dr. Kimberley Dej, dejkim@mcmaster.ca
Coordinator: Melissa Ricci, riccimm@mcmaster.ca, 905-525-9140 ext. 24066
  • Coordinator office hours: Thursday or Friday afternoons, by appointment (contact Melissa to schedule)

Student Support Team:
  • Arooba Muhammad, muhama13@mcmaster.ca
  • Hina Rani, ranih@mcmaster.ca
  • Serena Balzer, balzes1@mcmaster.ca
  • Tory Dockree, dockreet@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 based on class themes. This can be done in writing, art (including music), or in media such as photography or video 🎨

Important Notes

We will support you
We want you to enjoy the course and grow through your experiences 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
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
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 notify her of your absence, 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.