ARTS & SCIENCE 3GJ3 / Global Justice Inquiry  
2014-2015 (Term 2)

Instructor: Dr. Gary Warner, warner@mcmaster.ca  
Office Hours: Monday 10:30 -11:30, Jenkins Office, C-105, or by appointment  
Class Times: Monday 15:30-17:20 and Thursday 16:30-17:20, BSB-104

Course Description: Using an inquiry methodology, students will explore issues pertaining to global justice through an interdisciplinary lens. Course lecturers will include McMaster alumni with experience in the field of Global Justice as well as faculty from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to inform the exploration of complex and multifaceted issues. Specific areas of focus will change periodically. The topic in 2014/15 will be “water.”

Water occupies a central place in contemporary global justice work. Billions of people live without access to clean drinking water or to adequate sanitation, while increasing rates of consumption continue to deplete the world water supply. This course engages students in exploring the intersections of water and justice from a variety of perspectives, and by focusing on concrete examples develops their abilities to contribute to the pursuit of global justice.

The course will take an interdisciplinary, student-centred approach. Each week, one class meeting will be facilitated by one or more contributing instructors: a diverse team which includes faculty from across campus, McMaster alumni engaged in global justice work, and members of community organizations related to the course theme. These people will lead students in exploring a range of topics (e.g. water policy, representation of water, water security, women and water, water quality, water and both human health and ecosystem health), and will introduce them to diverse perspectives on each. A second weekly session, led by the course instructor, will give students an opportunity to work collaboratively to integrate the perspectives and approaches explored and to apply these in the service of addressing contemporary problems in water and justice.

The objectives of the course are to:

- enhance Inquiry skills, including formulating questions, self-directed research, critical thinking and communication skills
- understand the demands and implications of water as a universal human right and global justice issue
- critically assess how various strategies enable or impede effective fulfilment of this right
- engage in and document personal reflection on questions and issues arising from presentations, readings and discussions related to the course
- undertake an in-depth exploration of a topic of the student’s choosing related to the course theme

This course was developed as a first step towards creating a larger “global justice hub” at McMaster, which will bring together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners interested in working towards global justice. Plans for the continued development of the hub are ongoing, and several prospective hub members have agreed to serve as mentors for 3GJ3 students as appropriate.
Required Text:

Students are expected to read the above text in the course of the term and be able to discuss and reference it. Specific course readings for seminars are indicated in the course schedule below. You will be expected to have carefully read any readings assigned before the class in which they are to be discussed.

Course Assignments

Participation 10%
Students will be expected to attend all classes and contribute thoughtfully to course meetings, developing and raising questions for exploration, participating in collaborative activities, and presenting ideas and findings for discussion. Some of the work of the class will be done in small groups.

Journal Reflection 25%
Students are responsible for maintaining a weekly journal that records their critical reflections on key learnings and questions that they have identified in response to the speakers and related readings. The journals will be evaluated on the diligence with which they have been kept, the serious thought that has gone into the entries, and the degree to which they reflect the student’s engagement and evolution of his/her learning. The journal reflections, including all previous entries, are to be submitted in hard copy and electronically to the course instructor every two weeks on the dates indicated in the course schedule. 10% of the 25% allocated for the journal reflections will be assigned based on the work submitted before the mid-term break; the remainder will be assigned after the final submission of the totality of the journal reflections.

Capstone paper or project 50%
This exercise is composed of three phases: 1) the framing of the question or project (150-200 words) worth 5%; 2) the outline of the paper or project (600-750 words), plus an interim bibliography, worth 10%; and 3) the final paper or project worth 35%. This exercise may take the form of a research paper of between 3,000 and 4,000 words. Alternatively it could take the form of a detailed action plan, including a rationale, of similar length to address a specific issue related to water and justice. It could also take the form of a creative project related to water and justice, accompanied by an explanatory text of approximately 1,000 words. Although students will present individual papers or projects, they will be encouraged to collaborate on their research where their focus overlaps e.g. around culture, health, art, etc.

Poster presentation 10%
The poster is meant to communicate succinctly but effectively the essential themes of the paper or project. A poster presentation session will be organized to enable sharing of findings, questions and reflections. Each student will make a 3-4 minute summary presentation on his/her poster to the class. Posters will be judged on the basis of their effectiveness in conveying their key messages (research question and key findings clearly articulated), their visual appeal and the oral presentation.

Debate 5%
The debate is the follow up to Dr. Garrick’s seminar on The Global Water Crisis as a Governance Crisis and presents a practical application of various policy perspectives. This mark will be based on participation as a speaker representing a particular position during the debate.
Course schedule
NB. The symbol * indicates a required reading; [O] indicates an optional reading.

Week 1: January 5: Introduction to course
* Barlow, Maude. *Blue Future: Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever*, Ch. 1, 9-49

Week 1: January 8: Introduction Continued

Week 2: January 12: Dr. Dustin Garrick, The Global Water Crisis as a Governance Crisis


Week 2: January 15: Tutorial

January 19: Journal Reflection is due

Week 3: January 19: Dr. Beth Marquis, Representing water: Film and social change
* Lewis, Randolph. “[No Title]”. *The Velvet Light Trap* 60 (2007): 83-84.

January 22: Research paper question or project is due

Week 3: January 22: Tutorial

Week 4: January 26: Dr. Sheri Longboat, Guest Seminar on Water Security: A Contemporary Indigenous Perspective

January 29: Journal Reflection is due

Week 4: January 29: Tutorial

Week 5: February 2: Dr. Mirna Carranza, Women and Water

Week 5: February 5: Tutorial

Week 6: February 9: Dr. Karen Trollope-Kumar, Guest Seminar on Women and Water

February 12: Journal Reflection is due

Week 6: February 12: Tutorial

Mid-term recess (reading week): February 16-21

Week 7: February 23: Dr. Sarah Dickson, Water Quality and Access to Safe Drinking Water
February 26: Outline of Research Paper or project including interim bibliography is due
Week 7: February 26: Tutorial
Week 8: March 2: Daniel Olsen (M.A.Sc. Civ Eng), Guest Seminar on Water Quality and Access to Safe Drinking Water

March 5: Journal Reflection is due
Week 8: March 5: Tutorial
Week 9: March 9: Dr. John Maclachan, When Rocks and Water Don't Mix: A Look at Medical Geology
Week 9: March 12: Tutorial
Week 10: March 16: Dr. Kristen Hallett, Guest Seminar on Water and Health

March 19: Journal Reflection is due
Week 10: March 19: Tutorial
Week 11: March 23: Debate

March 26: Capstone paper or project is due
Week 11: March 26: Debate
Week 12: March 30: Poster presentations

April 2: Complete journal is to be submitted
Week 12: April 2: Poster presentations continued
Week 13: April 6: Wrap-up and Students’ course evaluation.
Optional local off-site experiential opportunities may be available during the term.

Assignment Submission
The course outline, including clarification of the course assignments, will be explained in more detail during the first class.
Assignments should be submitted in paper form to me at the beginning of class (unless otherwise noted) on the due date and also posted online in the Avenue to Learn dropbox. In line with the Office of Sustainability’s Work Submission Guidelines, papers should be printed double-sided, line spacing set at 1.5, and no separate title page is necessary. Referencing should follow the MLA format. Please include the following in the top right corner of the first page: Name; Student number; Course code (ARTS&SCI 3GJ3); Instructor’s name; Date; Title. Pages should be numbered and a title should be included at the top of the first page. Please make sure to back up your work in case the paper copy is lost.

Avenue to Learn (http://avenue.mcmaster.ca)
Avenue is an online system which will be used in this class for communicating information relating to the course and links to readings. See the Avenue homepage address above for more instructions if you need them.
Policy on Late Assignments
Students are expected to hand in assignments on the due date. Deadline extensions will only be granted by prior arrangement and on an exceptional basis. Late work will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day.

McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):
This is an on-line, self-reporting tool for students to report absences due to minor medical situations that last up to 5 days and to request accommodation for any missed academic work that is worth less than 30% of the final grade. Please note that this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. It is the prerogative of the instructor to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work. You may submit a maximum of one request per term. The form should be filled out immediately when you are about to return to class after your absence. It is your responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (within two working days) about the nature of the accommodation.
If you are absent for more than 5 days, have missed academic work worth 30% or more, or exceed one request per term, you must see Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program office (C-105). You will be required to provide supporting documentation.

Email Contact and Student Responsibility Statement
Please Note:
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email and course website weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and via Avenue to Learn. Students wishing to contact me individually should do so by using my McMaster email. Please note that all emails you send me must originate from your official McMaster University email account.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:
Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.
“Global citizenship is not a passive awareness but an active orientation to the challenges of the world.”
Dr. Patrick Dean, President, McMaster University. “Forward with Integrity: A Letter to the McMaster Community.” 11 September 2011.