

## **Politics, governance and economics of global water problem**

Instructor: Anastasia Likahcheva (Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies, Department of World politics)

### 1. COURSE OUTLINE

This interdisciplinary course is designed for bachelors of the 4<sup>th</sup> year (1-2 modules) and represents the first program in Russia focused on global water challenge, one of the major modern threats. The course covers wide range of aspects related to global water problem, including international water conflicts and cooperation, international water law, global and regional governance, water economics, integrated water resource management, virtual water trade, water-food-energy-climate nexus etc. The course examines these aspects of global water challenge through diverse case studies, directed readings, and group projects.

Structurally the course is divided into two parts: first part is dedicated to bringing a global vision of water problem, the second one will focus on particular river basins. Each class will be organized as a following way: lecture, afterwards a student will deliver a 10-minute individual oral presentation on his home-prepared issue (based on some detailed questions and supported with a 1 page summary and detailed list of sources) and each class will end up with a discussion based on recommended literature.

To improve students teamwork skills, the following activity will be proposed: «Russia as the richest water possessor in Eurasia: SWOT-analysis». Students will prepare a class, but necessary reading and materials will be provided in advance. Students will be divided in 4 groups (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and present each block as a team. A second class project, Global water summit, is designed to present students individual research in an interactive way. Within the summit student will be divided into working groups and present their own projects. These projects will be based on theirs essays

As far as reading makes a considerable contribution to the course, a special activity and control are prepared. To simplify and organize reading process during the course, three quizzes (15 minutes each) will be done. These quizzes will cover both a lecture material and extra-reading. These class-presentations and quizzes will be included in class activity mark.

## **Course Objectives**

1. To develop a global perspective on water problem
2. To apply basic IR, international law and economics concepts on water problem analysis
3. To highlight particular aspects of water conflicts and cooperative processes
4. To leave with a “big-picture” understanding of current issues associated with water in different regions of the world with a focus on developing countries.

## **2. SYLLABUS**

Schedule (subject to revision)

### **Block 1 Global water problem. Different aspects**

#### **Week 1 Introductory Lectures**

Lecture 1 – Water problem as a global challenge.

Lecture 2 – Water Resources. Major river basins.

#### **Week 2 International water framework**

Lecture 3 – International water law

Lecture 4 – Water and International relations theories

#### **Week 3 Water and world economy**

Lecture 5 – Water and economics

Lecture 6 – Water as a structural factor of world economy

#### **Week 4 International Hydropolitics.**

Lecture 7 – Water Conflicts: international and subnational

Lecture 8 – Water and International Cooperation

#### **Week 5 Climate-water-food-energy nexus**

Lecture 9 – Climate change and its impact on water resources, water cycle and national economies. Water and agriculture: Irrigation, hamburgers and Asian protein revolution

Lecture 10 – Water-energy nexus

#### **Week 6 international and local water governance**

Lecture 11 – UN-Water, international Water NGOs and basin management

Lecture 12 – Integrated water resource management

#### **Week 7 Examination week 1**

Test.

## **Block 2 Regional case-studies**

### **Week 8 Arab-Israeli water conflict**

Lecture 13 – History and background of the conflict

Lecture 14 – Water-management in the region, new technologies and adaptation tools

### **Week 9 Water conflicts in Asia**

Lecture 15 – China and its neighbors

Lecture 16 – Central Asia

### **Week 10 Water cooperation in South America**

Lecture 17 – Hydropower cooperation between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay

Lecture 18 – Supranational basin management

### **Week 11 Water challenge in Africa**

Lecture 19 – Nile river basin

Lecture 20 – Humanitarian aid in Africa: problems, actors, scope.

### **Week 12 Russia as the richest water possessor in Eurasia: SWOT-analysis**

A class prepared by students. Reading and materials will be provided in advance.

Students will be divided in 4 groups (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and present it as teams.

### **Week 13 Presentation of students research**

Global Summit on Water.

Last lecture, Debriefing

### **Week 14 - Examination week 2**

Final exam

## **3. PREREQUISITE**

There is no formal prerequisites to join the course but students will be expected to have an upper-intermediate or advanced level in English and successfully pass basic courses on world economy and international relations. Profound knowledge in environmental economics are considered as advantages but are not necessary to pass the course successfully.

As far as there is no specific prerequisites and the course covers a wide range of new topics (most of them is out of standard programm) students will have to put serious efforts in reading and discussion of the provided materials.

#### 4. AUTHOR

Anastasia Likhacheva works as a junior research fellow in Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies in NRU HSE. At the same time she is finishing her post-graduate research on water deficit and international relations. For fall-semester 2012/2013 she worked as a Visiting fellow in Harvard University, in Davis center for Russian and Eurasian studies. The course was designed mostly within this fellowship. The content and materials for reader were collected and prepared in Harvard University in cooperation with Working Group on Human Rights in Water & Sanitation of Harvard Kennedy School.

The author has been developed water-related issues for four years and has already presented her research outcomes within numerous international and Russian conferences, round-tables and published several articles.

#### 5. EXAMINATION TYPE

Students will be expected to attend all sessions, lead some of them, and participate actively in all others. There will be one written assignment, test and the final examination.

The breakdown of marks is as follows:

- Participation in group work, discussions, presentations, 3 quizzes etc. – 10%
- A 2,500-word paper focused on water problems – 20%
- A test after the Module 1 – 20%
- A final oral exam based on course readings and discussion will be due one week after the course ends on December – 50%