Course Description

Water is the source of life. In the midst of global climate change, environmental crises for water resources and political debates over water, we now understand our complete dependence on water. This course investigates our long term engagement with water using archaeology, environmental history, and historical sources. We explore cultural and political aspects of water (around springs, rivers, lakes, marshes, reservoirs, and living by the sea) from the early Holocene to late antiquity. We concentrate particular attention on water management, ideology and power in the ancient worlds, both Old and New.

Political ecology analyzes synergies between human organization and the environment. This burgeoning field has attracted scholars from the fields of anthropology, forestry, development studies, environmental sociology, environmental history, and geography. Water is a key variable in many political ecological studies, and archaeologists working on ancient states globally have studied water; this archaeological research should contribute long-term perspectives to the field. In blending archaeology, environmental sciences, and history, this course encourages its participants to deepen and broaden their perspectives.

Course Objectives:

1) Understand aspects of the history of research on hydraulic (and other) civilizations;
2) Identify and analyze competing strands of theory that contribute to current archaeological research on water management and the state;
3) Recognize the role of humans in manipulating and altering their hydraulic landscapes through time; and
4) Become familiar with multiple disciplines including paleoecology, settlement archaeology, and political ecology.

Each student in the seminar will be assigned one of the weekly topics to overview and will be expected to assist in the discussion of that week’s topic. While examples from Pacific and Asian contexts will be prominently featured in the readings for this seminar, we will also read related research in landscape archaeology from other areas of the world, including the American Southwest, the Eastern US, Europe, Mesoamerica, South
America, and Africa.

Requirements for the Course:

This course has five core requirements. Students must: (1) carefully and critically read all assigned texts; (2) contribute regularly to seminar discussions with incisive and articulate commentary in verbal and written form; (3) produce an original, well-reasoned answer to a practice comprehensive exam question in archeology; and (4) meet all deadlines specified in the Course Calendar below.

Grading Policy

There are a total of 100 points available to be earned in this course (each equivalent to one percent of your final grade). Students earning a cumulative total equal to or more than 83 points pass the course and will be assigned a letter grade according to the table below.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

80 points: Ten (10) synthetic essays (3-4 pp in length) on a particular week’s readings
20 points: Final annotated bibliography or exam (exam is 10-12 double-spaced pages)

Disabilities and Special Needs
Students with disabilities or in need of special classroom accommodations must contact the instructor and UHM KOKUA as soon as possible ([V/T] 956-7511 or [V/T] 956-7612; email: kokua@hawaii.edu). Additional information is available online (http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/). KOKUA is located on the ground floor of the Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services, Room 103. Services are confidential and free of charge.
**Weekly Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON STUDENT INTEREST)**

**Week 1: Setting the Terms: Power, Water, Complex Societies**


**Week 2: Fluid Politics**


**Week 3: State Power, Force, Ideology**


Week 4: Water as a Resource for States


Week 5: Political Ecology of Ancient States (ag intensification, centralized control, etc.)


Week 6: Water Management in Ancient States


Week 7: Water Landscapes and Hydraulic Societies in the Americas


Week 8: Water Landscapes and Hydraulic Societies in Ancient South Asia


**Week 9: Water Landscapes and Hydraulic Societies in Southwest and Central Asia**


**Week 10: Water Landscapes and Hydraulic Societies in Southeast Asia**


**Week 11: Water Landscapes and Hydraulic Societies in East Asia: Korea and Japan**


**Week 12: Water Landscapes in China, Wittfogel, and the Chinese Case Study**


**Week 13: Water Landscapes and Hydraulic Societies: Choose Case Study**

**Week 14: Collapse, and Resilience in Fluid Societies**

