

Un-Common Read: ***When The Rivers Run Dry***  
IDH 2930 (1 Credit; Section F010; Class No. 29301) – Fall 2024

**SYLLABUS VERSION 1**

**Instructor:** Joseph J. Delfino, PhD, BCES

Courtesy Professor Emeritus, Environmental Engineering Sciences/ESSIE

**Important Notes: Public Health Issues –**

The Covid virus is still active in Florida. If you are diagnosed as having contracted the virus, follow your doctor's, CDC's and/or UF Health Care professionals suggestions to protect your health and those with whom you have had or may have contact in the near future.

During this semester, if you get sick and possibly become contagious, don't come to class. Contact the instructor [delfino@ufl.edu] so we'll know your current situation. Call your primary health care provider or the UF Student Health Care [SHC] Center at 352-292-1161. Get tested, especially for Covid, and then receive further instructions about attending class. The UF Student Health Center offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who is sick or has tested Covid-positive.

There is no on-line section for this course. Only one class session is held each week. If you miss class due to illness, you can make up missed class material by completing an assignment in consultation with the Instructor. If you will miss a class when you are scheduled to make a presentation, it's up to you to arrange a "presentation swap" with a classmate. If you will miss a class, written documentation of illness from a medical professional will be needed or from someone who can attest to your illness.

**Contact Information:** Correspond or meet with the Instructor, as needed:

- In class or via E-mail to [delfino@ufl.edu](mailto:delfino@ufl.edu)
- By appointment – Office: 575M Weil Hall [use west stairway; enter room 575 and make an immediate left turn; arrange in advance by email.

**Class Time and Location:**

- Wednesdays, 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM (5<sup>th</sup> Period) in Room 117 Little Hall. The first lecture class will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

### **Course Narrative:**

- Over 70 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered, and the oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all Earth's water, leaving relatively little fresh and potentially potable water available for over 7 billion people and the entire terrestrial plant and animal community. Yet, with all of the water on the planet, there are millions of people who have inadequate fresh water for their daily lives and improper or non-existent sanitation facilities to adequately treat their wastes. Added to the usual list of problems is the growing influence of global climate change on water resources and water availability. Climate change as well as various human activities have affected and continue to influence fresh water availability.

### **Course Details:**

- This is a one credit seminar style discussion course that meets one class period each week on Wednesday at 11:45 AM [5th Period] in **Little Hall Room 117**. If circumstances require a change, an alternative time/place will be announced in advance by email or in class.
- Each student will be responsible for leading a class discussion covering their assigned text chapters and information related to the (un)Common reading book [***When The Rivers Run Dry by Fred Pearce; Beacon Press; ISBN 978-0-8070-5489-5***]. Class presentations will summarize information included in the reading assignment and include questions directed to class members to initiate discussion. **Buy the book before class begins.** Order on-line from Amazon or other book vendor, if possible, but make sure you get it before class begins. The UF Book Store may have copies.
- PowerPoint slides will support student presentations. Written assignments, e.g. a term paper, will be discussed in class in Week 2.
- This course does not use Canvas; course materials will be discussed in-class. Students should check email each day.

### **Course Objectives: To:**

- Learn the concepts underlying water resources and the ways in which human development of landscapes and use/abuse of water has created water supply issues in many areas of the planet. Fred Pearce's book is the starting point for the information to be discussed.
- Predict the ways in which changing climate can affect the hydrologic cycle.
- Learn about selected topics in environmental engineering and science that are directed toward the water cycle and preserving/improving water quality and water quantity. These important issues are often included under the general topic of Water Resources.

### **Course Grading:**

- Final letter grades will be issued based on: (a) preparation, delivery and discussion quality of student classroom presentations; (b) student attendance and participation in class discussions when others are making their presentations; (c) written assignments; and (d) a final wrap-up discussion with the instructor to be scheduled prior to the end of the course. Points for each requirement are indicated in the next section.
- **Letter grades** will be calculated using points earned for these student requirements:
  - a) Classroom presentation (30 pts);
  - b) Attendance in class each week (15 pts);
  - c) Active participation in classroom discussions (15 pts);
  - d) Written assignment(s) (30 pts);
  - e) End of semester discussion with the Instructor (10 pts).

**Letter grade** assignments will be based on the number of points earned, using 100 points as the maximum earnable points and the following ranges:

- A and A- (100 – 90 pts)                      D+, D (69 – 60 Pts)
  - B+, B (89 – 80 pts)                              E (< 60 pts).
  - C+, C (79 – 70 pts)
- **Attendance and Absences.** Attendance at every scheduled weekly class is **required** since there is only one class meeting each week. **Unexcused** absences will be reflected in the attendance portion of the course grade; each such absence results in a 5-pt. grading penalty. After three unexcused absences, no points will be awarded for class participation or attendance. If appropriate, with advance approval from the Instructor, a written assignment may substitute for missing a class meeting.
  - Everyone in the class is responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as stated in this Syllabus. Absences will count beginning with the second meeting of this course, i.e., starting on September 4, 2024.
  - Acceptable reasons for absence from or inability to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements for other courses (e.g., field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences for court-ordered legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be discussed with the Instructor in advance.

- Students should discuss with the Instructor any optional assignment required to make up the material or activities covered in any class that was missed due to an excused absence.
- Students cannot participate in classes unless they are officially registered. The Office of the University Registrar provides the official class rolls to instructors.
- If a student does not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of courses in which they are registered, **and** he/she has not contacted the Honors Program or the Instructor to indicate their intent to remain in the course, the student may automatically be dropped from the course. Any questions about this, contact Honors office staff or the Instructor.
- The university recognizes the right of the individual Instructor to make attendance mandatory. After unexcused absences and due notice (this Syllabus constitutes such notice), Instructors can prohibit further attendance and then assign a failing grade for unexcused absences.
- **Course Reading Book: *When The Rivers Run Dry***, by Fred Pearce. Beacon Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8070-5489-5. The book should be available from the UF Bookstore or from on-line sources. **Plan ahead and order/buy Fred Pearce's book early.**
- **Academic Honesty:**
- Students at UF commit themselves to uphold the Honor Code, and have accepted the pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code."* All homework, reports, and papers must represent a student's own individual work unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Plagiarism in writing assignments is not acceptable and violates the Honor Code. Such violations will receive severe grading penalties and will be reported to the Dean of Students as well as the student's College Dean and the Honors Program Director. Students have the responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Full details are available on the Honor Code website: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/resources/shca>
- **Weekly Assignment:** Students who are **leading discussions** during a given week's class should prepare a reasonable number of presentation slides [MS PowerPoint format]. The presenter should capture the important points in each of the assigned chapters. There isn't enough time in a class session to cover too many details in each chapter and then to have a class discussion. Emphasize key points and concepts. Offer at least one or two discussion questions from each chapter. Include a location map if you can find a simple one from an internet source. One presenter = 30 minutes; two presenters = 15 minutes each. Do not use fancy background scenes on the slides. These take up too many bytes. Presenters must have their slides completed by Sunday evening NLT 6 PM before your presentation and then sent to the Instructor as an attached PowerPoint file. **Be sure your computer is virus and malware free!** The slide set will then be distributed to the class by Tuesday evening. The slide set should not exceed 3-4 Mb to allow easy movement through the UF E-mail system.

### **Class Schedule:**

| <u>Week</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u><i>When The Rivers Run Dry</i> Readings</u> | <u>Leader(s)*</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------|
| 1           | Aug 28      | Introductions and Goals                        | Dr. D.            |
| 2           | Sep 4       | Climate and Water                              | Dr. D.            |
| 3           | Sep 11      | Water Resources                                | Dr. D.            |
| 4           | Sep 18      | Chs. 1, 2, 3, 4,                               | TBA               |
| 5           | Sep 25      | Chs. 5, 6, 7, 8                                | TBA               |
| 6           | Oct 2       | Chs. 9, 10, 11, 12                             | TBA               |
| 7           | Oct 9       | Chs. 13, 14, 15, 16                            | TBA               |
| 8           | Oct 16      | Chs. 17, 18, 20, 21                            | TBA               |
| 9           | Oct 23      | Chs. 19, 40                                    | Dr. D.            |
| 10          | Oct 30      | Chs. 22, 23, 24,25                             | TBA               |
| 11          | Nov 6^      | Chs. 26, 27, 28, 29                            | TBA               |
| 12          | Nov 13^     | Chs. 30, 31, 32                                | TBA               |
| 13          | Nov 20^     | Chs. 33, 34, 35                                | TBA               |
| 14          | Nov 27^     | No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday                | Travel Safely     |
| 15          | Dec 4^      | Chs. 36, 37, 38, 39                            | TBD               |

^ Individual “end of course” discussions will take place in 575M Weil Hall between Nov 6 and December 4 with times TBA by the end of October.

### **Software Use:**

- All faculty, staff and students at the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

### **Campus Help Resources:**

- Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Recourses are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance:
  - *University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1601, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/) Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Training Programs, Community Provider Database.*
- *Career Resource Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)*

### **Students with Disabilities Act:**

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resources Center (352-392-8565) or [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluations:**

- Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Religious Observations:**

- Request for excused absences from class to allow participation in religious observations should be made to the instructor as a courtesy in advance of the absence. If a student requesting this absence is scheduled to be leading a discussion on that day, it is the student's responsibility to arrange with another student in the class to switch the dates and topics of their previously established requirements. Please inform the instructor of this "trade" in advance of the week in which it is to occur.

### **Cell Phone Management:**

- Cell phones use is not permitted during the class period. Please silence your phone and keep it in a backpack or purse during the full class period. After the first violation, any subsequent violation will result in you not getting credit for attendance in class for that day.

### **Bio-Sketch:**

- Prepare a one-page [maximum length] Bio-Sketch with three paragraphs; (1) your background, interests and activities prior to coming to UF; (2) your UF academic major and degree sought, activities, and interests at UF; (3) your future plans [type of job, graduate or professional school [degrees] as of now, upon graduation [projected date] from UF. If you can, please insert a small photograph of yourself somewhere on that one page.

Version 1: August 1, 2024