

Course title: H₂Observations: Water in Western Culture

Water. You drink it and bathe in it. It's in air and in the casserole you ate last night. Water covers about seventy percent of the earth's surface and comprises up to sixty percent of your body. It's an understatement to say that water is important to our lives and our society. This course will examine the uses of water from the industrial revolution to the present, looking at how cultures view and portray water. Using a wide array of texts—books, essays, poems, articles, news clippings, speeches, films, paintings, photos, music, and many more—you'll discover how water is portrayed in ecology and science, in industry and business, in politics, and in the arts. Assignments will include (but are not limited to) a video group project, three formal papers, and weekly web log postings. At least one of the formal papers will be geared toward your particular major.