

Mediterranean-Climate Landscapes (LA C229, IAS C229) Spring 2009
Reforming Water Management: Lessons from Europe for California
Instructors: Prof Matt Kondolf and Juliet Christian-Smith PhD (Pacific Institute)

Curriculum development : Kristen Podolak

Offered as a 1-credit 'module' to students enrolled in LA222 (Hydrology for Planners)

Selected Wednesdays 6-8pm, Rm 315A Wurster Hall

ENROLLMENT REQUIRES INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION

If interested, contact Matt (kondolf@berkeley.edu) or Juliet (jchristi@nature.berkeley.edu) and/or attend FIRST MEETING - WED 21 JAN 6-8pm Rm 315A Wurster Hall

Relevance of this Course

The Water Framework Directive (WFD), adopted by the European Union in 2000 and currently being implemented by its member states, represents a bold change in river management. The WFD emphasizes catchment-scale, participatory and economically-sound approaches to water management. For students of water resource management in the US, the WFD embodies many changes recommended for American water management for over a century, but which have generally not occurred because of institutional and political barriers. The potential application of lessons from the EU experience to California is especially timely because within the coming two years, the California legislature will consider proposed reforms to the current system of water management. These proposed reforms are spurred by intensifying water shortages, precipitous declines in populations of native fish, and the urgent need to develop new management strategies for water and land in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the hub of the state's water system. The governor's Blue-Ribbon Delta Vision Task Force released its final report fall 2008, recommending sweeping changes in land and water management in the Delta – many of which have parallels in the EU's WFD.

Spring 2009

In Spring 2009, this course is offered as a one-credit graduate student seminar open to students concurrently enrolled in (or who have previously taken) Hydrology for Planners (LA222). Students will review the origins of the WFD, its elements, its implementation to date, focusing on the Mediterranean-basin countries, and comparison with water management in California. Some of the content of this course will be integrated into the LA222 curriculum, such as discussions of California water policy and comparisons to WFD. In addition, the 229 course will meet for approximately six additional seminar sessions and will involve:

- 1- lectures, discussions, and readings on the WFD and the EU
- 2- preparation of a brief paper and oral presentation in which students evaluate an EU member state's WFD implementation process and its current level of compliance
- 3- selection of an LA222 term project relevant to comparative study with WFD
- 4- optional travel to Portugal in late-May to conduct research on WFD-relevant topics in a workshop with Portuguese students. (Costs of student travel to Europe will be significantly subsidized by endowments administered by the Portuguese Studies Program.)

Students enrolled in 229 will build upon analytical techniques and policy background they learn in LA222 to focus on specific topics relevant to WFD implementation. LA222 involves a significant term project involving original, independent research, often conducted in teams of two or more students. For their LA222 term projects, students in 229 will choose topics relevant to their studies of the WFD in 229. The student research papers will be compiled (with related faculty research) in a report tentatively titled *Reforming Water Management: Lessons from Europe for California*. This report will be released in July-August 2009, when it can potentially influence thinking about water reform in California.