

ENVS 596B – Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions

3-unit class cross-listed as GEOG, HWRS, LAW, and PLG 596B

Professor Sharon B. Megdal smegdal@arizona.edu

Spring Semester on Fridays from 9:00 am – 11:30 am (enrollment limited)

Meets at the Water Resources Research Center, 350 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson

Testimonials from 2024

“I really enjoyed your class this semester. I like the variety of topics covered in such a short period of time, as well as the quality of speakers. You're one of only a few people in Arizona who have that type of network, and it really benefits the class.”

“I learned so much in your class! It was very interesting and I loved the guest speakers and the pragmatic conversations that we had!”

“Thank you for...a wonderful course this semester - by far one of my favourites despite my (initial) lack of "policy" knowledge!”

“I learned so much from this class that has already been directly applicable in my work.”

“I really enjoyed the class and the opportunity to be surrounded by great people from many disciplines.”

Course Objectives

Students will develop an understanding of the development of water policy using Arizona, the Colorado River Basin, and other semi-arid regions for in-depth case study. Student writing and presentation skills are developed through leading and participating in discussions, presentations, and writing an individual research paper and completing related assignments.

Course Outcomes

- Interpret the role of regulation, institutions, and the legal framework for water allocation and use in determining the utilization of water across types of uses, geography, and time.
- Synthesize the complexities associated with developing and implementing water policies to address water challenges.
- Evaluate how policies and policy proposals meet public policy objectives.