

BIS300A Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies: Water Spring 2006

C. Jackels

Informal Response Assignment #3

The broad purpose of this writing assignment is to *individually* reflect upon ideas expressed in chapter 7 of Wehr's book:

Wehr, Kevin, "Damnation: Controlling the Waters, Civilizing the Wilderness," Ch 7 of America's Fight over Water: The Environmental and Political Effects of Large-Scale Water Systems, (Routledge, NY, 2004) pp. 225-241.

You have read this chapter, and the groups have led discussions of it in class. Recall that it is organized into four sections: State Building in the American West; Treadmill of Production on Southern Frontiers; Unintended Negative Consequences; and Civilized Wilderness.

Topic or thesis: You are asked to identify and explain an important concept from the Chapter 7 (Wehr 2004) and discuss why you would be interested in pursuing that concept more extensively, perhaps through a class project, term paper, etc.

Development: As introduction, briefly identify the concept in which you are interested and explain it and its context, relying largely Wehr's writing.

In the middle section (largest part of the paper), you should explore what makes this concept appear interesting enough to warrant further investigation. What aspect of it in particular (or what question about it) would motivate you. You should consider how this idea is connected to the rest of the material we have read in this class as well as to your broader educational goals. This section needs to be very carefully constructed and reasoned. You should be specific about the details of the proposed study question as well as the relationships of it to your other readings and broader experience. *You should not have to do additional research for this.*

Finally give a very brief conclusion, perhaps just a sentence or two.

Style: This is formal writing and should be an example of good grammar, correct spelling, effective word choice, and articulate sentence and paragraph structure.

Length: No more than 500 words max (approx two pages, double spaced, one inch margins, 12-pt font). *These formats are to be observed!*

Bibliography: A list of endnotes should appear at the end of your paper. *It might contain as little as just Wehr's book.* Each source discussed should appear there only once. Nothing should appear in the list that is not referenced in the text. If you refer to the same source more than once, cross reference the previous endnote rather than entering

the same source twice in the bibliography. Use either the Name-Year or Citation-Sequence system of endnotes, described in the CBE style references.

Schedule: The assignment is due electronically at E-Submit before 6:00 AM on Saturday, May 13. No late submissions will be accepted. *This deadline has been extended from that in the syllabus because the assignment has been distributed two days late. Do not lose track of the rough draft of your writing assignment due within just a few more days.*