

# **BIS300A Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies: Water Spring 2006**

## **C. Jackels**

### **Informal Response Assignment #4**

The broad purpose of this writing assignment is to *individually* reflect upon ideas expressed in chapter 7 of Postel's book and the papers we have discussed in class: by Haddadin; by Amery; and by Jarvis et al. *The paper by Jarvis, discussed in class this week, was added to the reading list late. It is on e-reserve.*

In discussing water resources and world peace, two general positions seem to emerge: 1) that water problems because of their nature are likely to be negotiated by conflicting parties rather than leading to armed conflict; or 2) that as water becomes increasingly scarce, that scarcity is likely to lead to armed conflict.

Your response to these materials is to select one of the likely regions of conflict about which we have read, assume one of the two positions about that particular water resource in that particular region, and then argue in a short essay as to why the chosen position is likely to be the correct one (i.e. negotiation or war). Your paper should draw upon the sources we have studied as references; *you should not have to do additional research.*

**Topic or thesis:** You are asked to identify an important region with serious water conflict potential and choose a position that predicts if that region will resolve its water resource problems peacefully or by war.

**Development:** As introduction, briefly state your position for this region and give a signpost telling the reader what argument you will present in support of it.

In the middle section (largest part of the paper), you should develop this position fully, drawing upon information from the sources we have used in class, especially Postel, Amery, Haddadin, and Jarvis. You should be specific about the details of the particular problem area chosen. The logic supporting your position should be carefully developed and grounded in the readings.

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. 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. At this point, you should be familiar enough with these systems, that you can use one or the other consistently and correctly.

**Schedule:** The assignment is due electronically at E-Submit before 6:00 AM on Thursday, May 25. 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.*