



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Water Diplomacy

e-Learning | 6 November – 3 December 2017



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Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Please carefully read the Disclaimer and Acknowledgements documents located on this course's home page before beginning the course for more information about the terms and conditions of use of UNITAR's virtual learning environment and acknowledgement of those organizations for their authorization to use audio transcripts, webcasts and photographic imagery.

Course Presentation

This e-learning course has been developed by UNITAR's Multilateral Diplomacy Programme, in partnership with the University of East Anglia Water Security Research Centre and the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, and aims to enhance participants' appreciation of how, through understanding water's conflict potential, we can promote and develop efficient and sustainable cooperation tracks. The course will run over 4 weeks, each week introducing the key facts, national and international frameworks guiding water use and management, negotiation and mediation techniques, and concrete tools for effective cooperation around water for the benefit of human rights, development and growth, and international peace and security. The course lesson materials will be complemented by discussion forums, video links, additional readings and a final practical exercise designed to enhance the participants' learning experience and understanding of the challenges underlying effective water cooperation.

Course Outline

Module 1 – Water Resources: Conflicts and Cooperation

6 - 12 November 2017

Lesson 1 – Assessing Global Water Resources: from Water Scarcity to Water Security

Lesson 2 – Water Conflicts Under the Scope

Lesson 3 – Transboundary Waters, Related Conflicts and Cooperation

Estimated workload: 8 hours

Module 2 – Instruments and Tools for Water Cooperation and Conflict Management

13 - 19 November 2017

Lesson 1 – Management Instruments for Water Cooperation

Lesson 2 – Diplomatic Tools for Conflict Management

Lesson 3 – Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Instruments

Estimated workload: 8 hours

Module 3 – Practical Skills for Sustainable Cooperation and Conflict Resolution

20 November - 3 December 2017

Lesson 1 – Sustaining Water's Potential for Cooperation

Lesson 2 – Managing Water Under Uncertainty and Risk

Lesson 3 – Transboundary Water Management Case Studies (includes a practical exercise)

Estimated workload: 8 hours

Contents and Learning Objectives

	Contents	Learning objectives At the end of the module, you will be able to:
Module 1 Water Resources: Conflicts and Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water specificities and spatial distribution Causes and consequences of water scarcity The importance of groundwater aquifers Population growth, booming economies and climate change as major influencers of water scarcity The concept of water security Water conflict forerunning signals and today's greatest water hotspots Transboundary water conflicts International Water Law Drawing the "best" out of a conflict and avoiding escalation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain scientific and technical understanding of water, which includes the vital quality of water, the water cycle and the spatial distribution of water on Earth, notably the importance of groundwater Distinguish water scarcity and water security, and what the relationship between them involves for states and their "web of water security" Identify the major stressors responsible for heightening the risk of water scarcity, the indicators for identifying basins at risk and recognise water's "potential for conflict" Get to know which frameworks have been designed to prevent water-related disputes, both at the national and international level through an introduction to International Water Law Recognise conflict's positive quality and explore ways to avoid conflict escalation and destructiveness
Module 2 Instruments for Water Cooperation and Conflict Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water's transformative power Evidence in favour of and benefits underlying water cooperation Legal, regulatory and institutional implications and tools The concept of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Negotiation and mediation skills Psychological and cultural drivers and their influence on dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate the "transformative power" of water, water's "potential for cooperation", and explore the scope of incentives and mutual benefits underlying water cooperation Identify management instruments for water cooperation, such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Uncover the legal, regulatory and institutional implications of water cooperation Recognise the value of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and how its principles and processes may be articulated to best serve water cooperation processes Strengthen their diplomatic skills in the field of negotiation and mediation and recognise their usefulness in the realm of water cooperation
Module 3 Practical Skills for Sustainable Cooperation and Conflict Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Organisations (RBOs) Examples in the existing transboundary water management institutions The concepts of uncertainty and risk. Making water management institutions resilient Studying practical cases of successful and less successful transboundary water management Lessons learned from past negotiation processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover the value of sustainable water cooperation agreements, along with the design of basin-wide sustainable organisations (River Basin Organisations) Identify existing multilateral institutions responsible for the joint management of transboundary water resources, and become familiar with how they operate Recognise the importance of the concepts of "uncertainty" and "risk" in modern water management theory, and their impact on institutions' sustainability Envisage new ways to transform water management institutions and improve their resilience Illustrate their mastery of transboundary water management mechanisms thanks to a series of documented landmark case studies, and identify the successes and failures in each of them

Methodology

The course will be delivered via the e-Learning platform Moodle (please see the course *User's Guide* for instructions on using this platform). This pedagogical tool will help the student meet the course's learning objectives through a self-paced study routine supported

by multimedia, optional and required readings, discussion forums, assessment quizzes, and a wealth of other information. Adapted specifically to full-time professionals, students will learn by: absorbing (reading), doing (activities), interacting (socializing), and reflecting (relating to personal experience).

Materials will be posted online on a weekly basis. Your course is divided into three modules which contain the following structural elements:

- Contents
- Learning Objectives
- Lesson Material (text, videos, and documents)
- Assessment
- Discussion Board

Students will also need to participate in a simulation exercise during the last week of the course.

Grading Policy and Course Completion

Students are eligible for a course certificate upon successful course completion. Successful completion requires:

- **an 80% passing grade on EACH of the 3 module-based assessments** (8 out of 10 questions correct); you may take each assessment up to **three** times (questions are randomized from a larger pool of questions and therefore will change upon assessment attempts);
- participation in the weekly Discussion Board forums; your posts will be evaluated according to both **quantity and quality** (e.g., content relevance and contribution to overall discussion).¹
- participation in the **final practical exercise** undisclosed at the end of week 2. A **50% passing grade** is required.

Before moving to the next module, you should: **(a)** read all the core module texts, **(b)** take the module-based assessments, and **(c)** participate in the weekly Discussion Board forums. You are encouraged to consult the optional external links to enhance your knowledge of the given lesson's topic (e.g., links to websites and additional documents).

All assessments, once made available, will remain accessible until the end of the course and you can be taken anytime during the duration of the course, however assessments should be taken before moving to the next module.

¹ See Disclaimer sections (h), (i) and (j) for more information regarding the terms and conditions of use of forums.

UNITAR's e-learning Committee will make the final decision regarding certificates in consultation with the Course Director. UNITAR reserves the right to award certificates only to those considered as "eligible" participants. We urge you to take a clear note of the above requirements. If you need any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme Team.

Study Planning

The following study grid indicates which course activities are mandatory.

Activity	Mandatory
Interactive Course	Yes
External Links and Readings	No (Recommended)
Cybrary ²	Partially
Module Assessments	Yes
Discussion Forum	Yes
Final Practical Exercise	Yes
Course Evaluation	Yes
Online Lecture	No (Recommended)

What is distinct about this learning experience is that it is an **online** learning experience. Online training, by its very nature, entails delivery of educational content over the internet. As you will proceed in this course, training materials will be made available to you through UNITAR's e-Learning portal. This course will also provide links to other web resources such as references and documents. Additionally, it will require you to use simple collaborative tools such as email exchanges among the group/participants who have registered for this course as well as participate in a discussion forum.

The UNITAR team is available to provide guidance and user information to help you participate and **contribute actively** to this discussion forum, which is an important requirement for completing this course. You will also have access to a Course Director (or

² The Cybrary contains important course information; please see the next section on the course's Learning Content.

instructor) who will animate the discussion board as well as answer substantive and course related questions (either using the Discussion Board or through a traditional email method). There will thus be no face-to-face interaction. All interaction will take place through the internet using UNITAR's e-learning portal!

The **advantages** of online training are many. You are able to:

- schedule and pace your learning according to your specific needs
- make use of additional resources using the internet
- work from office or home as long as you have a computer with an internet connection
- connect with your fellow participants and instructors through the learning portal

The lack of face-to-face interaction will require more discipline and pro-active planning on your end in order to successfully meet the course's learning objectives. In this regard, it is thus different and distinct from a traditional face-to-face training course.

The following **complete course schedule** indicates when materials will be posted online and taken offline. Note that following the sixth week, material will remain available online for the wrap-up session in which participants can take the Course Evaluation, as well as finish all assessments until the specified date.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
6 November 2017	Course Opens Module 1 Online	Discussion Board (DB) 1 Online Assessment 1 Online	-	-	Module 2 Online	-
13 November 2017	-	DB 2 Online Assessment 2 Online	-	-	Module 3 Online Online Lecture 3-4pm CET Final Practical Exercise Online	-
20 November 2017	-	DB 3 Online Assessment 3 Online	Course Evaluation Online	-	-	-
27 November 2017	-	-	-	-	All DBs Close Deadline for Final Practical Exercise	Concluding Remarks by the Trainer
4 December 2017	-	-	-	-	Assessments Close Assessment Answers Online Evaluation Closes Course Closes	-

Although this online course is **asynchronous** – meaning that the interaction between you and the trainers or fellow participants will take place intermittently with a time delay – it will be important to establish a course study routine that best adapts to your work schedule, family commitments, Internet connection speed, etc. This will allow you to complete your assignments and tasks in time (on a week-by-week basis) and thus maintain a similar pace as other course participants. *Please note that the MDP e-Learning Team will send a reminder if your module-based assessments have not been completed.*

Learning Content³

The complete set of course materials **will NOT be available all at once on the UNITAR portal. Materials will be posted on a weekly basis.** Learning materials are organized as follows:

1. Interactive Course

The interactive course is the core mandatory learning activity. The various module lessons contain links to external documents and websites, videos, questions and suggested responses, and basic text. The lessons are relevant to a wide demographic of participants, both those with basic knowledge on the topic as well as those with more advanced knowledge who wish to focus on the more specialized points of the course.

2. Resources

The Resources section contains both optional and mandatory materials to enhance your understanding of a given lesson's subject matter. For example:

The Cybrary (Cyber Library) contains many additional resources, including:

- i. Printable PDF version of each module (with the Documents to Download cited in each module)
- ii. Optional readings
- iii. Documents relative to simulation exercise

3. Key to Icons



Quotes / technical jargon



Warning: mistakes to avoid, particular point of interest



Video clip or webcast

³ See Disclaimer for more information regarding the terms and conditions of use of the course material.



Questions



Document to download / web link

Course Moderators

Dr. Jessica Budds

Moderator for Module I

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Office Location: Norwich, United Kingdom

Office hours: I read and respond to my email and to the forums daily.

Dates of responsibility: 6-12 November 2017



Dr. Jessica Budds is a Senior Lecturer in Environment and Development at the University of East Anglia in the UK. She is a human geographer by training, with regional expertise in Latin America. She has previously worked at several British universities, and has been affiliated with the Institute for Amazon Research in Brazil, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Chile and the International Institute for Environment and Development in London. She has worked on water management and allocation in the global South since 1997, and has particular expertise in water and sanitation provision in informal settlements, water privatisation and markets, and water capture and use by major industries, including agriculture, mining and hydroelectric power. Her work employs a political ecology perspective to examine the power relations that shape water issues, and she is currently developing the concept of the hydrosocial cycle to analyse the relationship between water and people. She is also a member of the international Water Justice Alliance.

Pr. Jacques Ganoulis

Moderator for Modules II and III

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Office Location: Athens, Greece

Office hours: I read and respond to my email and to the forums daily.

Dates of responsibility: 13 November – 3 December 2017



Pr. Jacques Ganoulis is Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Ph.D. (Doctorat d'Etat) in Natural Sciences from the University of Toulouse (France) and visiting scholar at the Universities of Erlangen (Germany), McGill (Canada), Melbourne (Australia), and Paris VI (France). He has more than 35 years experience in integrated water resources management, risk analysis, climate change and transboundary water management, including transboundary aquifer resources and conflict resolution. He is the Director

of the UNESCO Chair/International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB-www.inweb.gr), a Senior Consultant in UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Paris, and since May 2015, Water Director, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Athens, Greece. He has an extensive experience in consultancy, project management and education. He published more than 200 papers in International Journals and Conferences and is the co-editor or author of 10 books including Transboundary Water Resources Management: a Multidisciplinary Approach (WILEY, 2011) and Risk Analysis of Water Pollution (WILEY, 2009; 2nd edition; translated into Chinese).

Technical Support

For any technical issue or coordination matter, you may contact the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme e-Learning Team (MDP e-Learning Team) by sending a message through the UNITAR Virtual Learning Environment, by email at mdp-elearning@unitar.org, or by phone. Phone support hours are 9am to 6pm Geneva time and emails will be answered within 24 hours.

MDP e-Learning Team

E-mail: mdp-elearning@unitar.org

Phone: +41 22 917 87 16

Office Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Phone support hours: 9am to 6pm Geneva time

Email response time: within 24 hours