



CIEE Amman, Jordan

Course title:	Environment, Sustainability and Activism
Course code:	ENVI 3004 AMJO
Programs offering course:	Middle East Studies
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

Course Description

Jordan's environmental issues are not on top of the country's priorities, except for water scarcity. The regional instability has led to waves of refugees fleeing into the country pushing Jordan to be the second water-poor country in the world. The course will explore the social, political and economic factors of the water crisis and other environmental issues along with the challenges and potentials of sustainable development in the country. This course uses Jordan geopolitical position in the region and the current debates over water management, its nuclear program, its agricultural sector, access to petroleum products, growing urbanism, and exploding population as a lens for exploring local and regional issues of diplomacy and development vis-à-vis environmental issues and policy. While doing so, we will also address the politics of the region since Jordan and most of the MENA countries share many resources especially water, where across borders cooperation and/or conflict play a major role in managing these limited resources. Moreover, we will look into different environmental NGOs and initiative in an attempt to understand their role in environmental management, protection, advocacy and awareness. At the same time get a better understanding of the dynamics of environmental activism in Jordan.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine the main environmental challenges in Jordan
- Investigate the regional challenges and dynamics of environmental issues, especially water
- Examine the prospects of sustainable development in Jordan and the region
- Argue the politics of environment in the region and the changing dynamics of environmental issues after the Arab Spring
- Value the role of environmental activism in addressing environmental issues in Jordan

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The course will depend on one or a combination of presentations, films, guest lecturers, class debate and discussions.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Three Individual Assignments	15%
2.	Midterm Take Home Exam	25%
3.	Simulation Game	10%
4.	In-Class Discussion	10%
5.	Final Paper and Presentation	35%

6.	Class Participation	5%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Three Individual Assignments

(5% each)

The students will be asked to submit 3 individual assignments during the course and present them in class. In the first assignment you need to ask 3 Jordanians "what do you think are Jordan's main environmental challenge?" The second assignment will look into various water bodies in the MENA region and transboundary water agreements. The third assignment is about environment in the news. More details and assignments guide will be provided during class. These assignments are due on the same day of the class.

Midterm Take Home Exam

The take home exam will be handed out during class and due on Thursday March 15 by 11:59pm

Simulation Game

All the students will participate in a simulation game regarding water issues and water negotiations in the region, and then students will have to come to an agreement regarding water sharing and management. More details on the simulation will be provided during class.

In-Class Discussion

Students will choose the topic they would like to lead a class discussion on. That will include presenting a summary of the readings; key concepts and arguments and preparing a list of 3 to 5 questions to lead a 30 minutes discussion. This will help to create lively respectful discussions and a critical analysis of the topic that you are mostly interested in.

Final Paper and Presentation

(20% essay paper & 15% presentation)

For your final paper you will study more in depth a topic related to the classes/discussions/readings and present that in-class. The paper and presentation are due on the last day of class. More instructions will be provided.

Class Participation

Your active participation is essential to your learning process and to the success of the course – both for you and for the class as a whole. Therefore, you are expected to read the assigned reading prior to each class so you are prepared with thoughts, questions and comments for engaging in in-class discussions and other class activities. You are also required to listen and respond to other students as well as to the instructor.

Attendance

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade

of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: .

Syllabus Overview, Class Expectations and Goals

Introduction: Jordan's Environmental Setting

Week 2

Class: .

Jordan & Middle East Environmental Challenges

Readings:

- United Nations Development Program. 2009. Arab Human Development Report: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries. UNDP. P: 33-51
- <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdr/ahdr2009e.pdf>
- Otto Simonett (Ed.), 2011. "Jordan Environment & Security." Zoï Report.
- <http://issuu.com/zoienvironment/docs/jordan-final-corrections->

Optional:

- Ministry of Environment, 2016. "Jordan's State of Environment Second Report, Technical Summary."
- <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/En/Documents/Technical%20Summary.pdf>

Assignment: First Individual Assignment

Week 3

Class: .

Jordan's Energy Sector

Agriculture, Land Degradation & Desertification

- Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources: Annual Report, 2017. MEMR, Jordan.
- <http://www.memr.gov.jo/echobusv3.0/SystemAssets/469adf39-0f2f-4d01-a72b-d394c3b56332.pdf>
- Al Jayyousi O., 2015." Chapter Three: Renewable Energy and Future Opportunities" from "Renewable Energy in the Arab World: Transfer of Knowledge and Prospects for Arab Cooperation" Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). P: 55-82.
- <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/amman/11667.pdf>
- GOPA, 2014. "Strategic plan of the Agriculture Sector in Jordan." European Union. P: 5-10 & 42-48
- <http://etvetreform.gov.jo/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Agriculture-sector-plan-JORDAN-2014.pdf>
- Ministry of Environment, 2015. "The Aligned National Action - Plan to Combat Desertification in Jordan 2015-2020." FAO.
- <http://www.unccd.int/ActionProgrammes/Jordan%20-%20eng%202015-2020.pdf>

Optional:

- Greenpeace Mediterranean, 2013. "Jordan's Future Energy." Greenpeace Mediterranean. P: 1-25 & 38-57. http://www.greenpeace.org/arabic/PageFiles/481146/Jordan_Report2013.pdf
- Jordan Ministry of Environment. 2006. "National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification." MOENV. P: 61-70
<http://www.moenv.gov.jo/En/EnvImpactAssessmentStudies/Documents/Desertification%20strategy.pdf>

Week 4

Class: .

Guest Speaker: Sustainability and Sustainable Development in MENA

Readings:

- Abaza H., Saab N. and Zeitoon B. (eds.), 2011. "Introduction: Green Economy in a Changing Arab World." In *Green Economy: Sustainable Transition in a changing Arab World*. AFED. P: XV-XL <http://www.afedonline.org/Report2011/PDF/En/Full-eng.pdf>
- Issa N. and Al Abbar S., 2015. "Sustainability in the Middle East: achievements and challenges" *International Journal of Sustainable Building Technology and Urban Development*. Vol. 6, No. 1, 34-38.
- Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, 2017. "Jordan's Way to Sustainable Development: First National Voluntary review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda." MOP Amman, Jordan. P. 35-57
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16289Jordan.pdf>

Week 5

Class: Water in the Middle East

Readings:

- World Bank, 2018. "Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa." *The World Bank* 74 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27659>
- Haddadin M. J. 2002. "Water issues in the Middle East challenges and opportunities." *Water Policy* 4, p. 20-25
- MWI, 2016. "National Water Strategy of Jordan, 2016 – 2025." Jordan Ministry of Water and Irrigation. P: <http://www.mwi.gov.jo/sites/en-us/Hot%20Issues/Strategic%20Documents%20of%20The%20Water%20Sector/National%20Water%20Strategy%202016-2025-25.2.2016.pdf>

Assignment:

Second Individual Assignment

Week 6

Class: Jordan's Water Crisis: Now & Future

Readings:

- MWI, 2016. "National Water Strategy of Jordan, 2016 – 2025." Jordan Ministry of Water and Irrigation. P: <http://www.mwi.gov.jo/sites/en-us/Hot%20Issues/Strategic%20Documents%20of%20The%20Water%20Sector/National%20Water%20Strategy%202016-2025-25.2.2016.pdf>
- Mercy Corps, 2014. "Tapped Out: Water Scarcity and Refugee Pressures in Jordan." Mercy Corps. P. 18-20
http://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/MercyCorps_TappedOut_JordanWaterReport_March2014.pdf

Midterm, take-home exam

Week 7

Class: Water Politics: Conflict and Cooperation

Assignment: Simulation Game

Readings:

- Haddadin M., 2006. "Conflict resolution and Regional cooperation." In Haddadin, M. "Water Resources in Jordan: Evolving Policies for Development, the Environment, and Conflict Resolution Resources for the Future." RFF Press, Washington DC. P: 236-263. In Print.
- Haddadin M. J., 2002. "Water in the Middle East Peace Process." *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 168 (4), p. 324-340
- Ferragina, Eugenia, 2008. "The Effect of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on the Water Resources of the Jordan River Basin." *Global Environment 2*: 152-170.
<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/4596>
- Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty, 1994 on water
- Oslo II Accords, 1995 on water

Week 8

Class: Climate Change & Environmental Justice

Readings:

- UNDP, 2018. "Climate Change Adaptation in the Arab States; Best practices and lessons learned." United Development Programme. P: 23-39
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Climate%20and%20Disaster%20Resilience/Climate%20C States-CCA.pdf>
- Ministry of Environment, 2013. "The National Climate Change Policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2020." Ministry of Environment, Jordan. P: 24-32.
http://www.moenv.gov.jo/AR/PDFs/Climate%20change%20policy_PDF.pdf
<http://www.jo.undp.org/content/dam/jordan/docs/Publications/Enviro/climate-change-from%20batir%20smaller%20version.pdf>
- Brücker P., Bougnoux N., Wodon Q. 2012. "Environmental Migration in the Middle East and North Africa." *Environment* N°13/2012. IDDRI. <http://www.iddri.org/Publications/Migrations-environnementales-en-Afrique-du-Nord-et-Moyen-Orient>

Optional:

- UNDP, 2017. "Jordan's Third National Communication on Climate Change." UNDP, Jordan.

Week 9

Class: Guest Speaker: Environmental Activism & Advocacy

Readings:

- Djoundourian S. 2011. "Environmental movement in the Arab world." *Environment, Development and Sustainability*. Vol. 13 (4): 743-758
- AlJayoussi, S. 2016. "Environmental Activism in the Light of COP21" in *Middle East & North Africa: A Region Heating Up: Climate Change Activism in the Middle East and North Africa*. Heinrich Böll Stiftung. P: 10-13 <https://lb.boell.org/en/2016/12/12/perspectives-9-environmental-activism-light-cop21>
- "Green Activism to Protect Forests in Jordan." 2011. By Odeh Al-Jayyousi
<http://www.7iber.com/2011/05/green-activism-to-protect-forests-in-jordan/>

Assignment: Third Individual Assignment due at 11:59pm

Week 10

Class: Environment and the Arab Spring

Readings:

- Dumalaon, J. 2015. "How the Arab Spring spawned a 'green revolution.'" *Deutsche Welle*. <http://www.dw.com/en/how-the-arab-spring-spawned-a-green-revolution/a-18172378>
- Johnstone S. and Mazo J. 2013. "Global Warming and the Arab Spring." In Werrell C. E. and Femia F. (eds.), 2013. "The Arab Spring and Climate Change: A Climate and Security Correlations Series." Center for American Progress. P: 15-21. <https://climateandsecurity.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/climatechange-arab-spring-ccs-cap-stimson.pdf>
- de Châtel F., 2014. "The Role of Drought and Climate Change in the Syrian Uprising:"

Untangling the Triggers of the Revolution." *Middle Eastern Studies*. Vol 50 (4). P: 521-535. <https://blogs.commons.georgetown.edu/rochelledavis/files/francesca-de-chatel-drought-in-syria.pdf>

- Selby J. et.al. 2017. "Climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited." *Political Geography* 60 (2017) 232-244

Week 11

Class: Site Visit - The Royal Department for Environment Protection / Rangers

Environmental Policies & Legislations

Readings:

- Ministry of Environment, 2005. "Environmental Protection Law No. 52 of 2006." MOENV <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/En/LegislationAndPolicies/Legislation/Regulations/Pages/EnvironmentalProtection.aspx>
- Al-Sharari S., 2014. "The Legal Framework for Environmental Protection in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: A Review of the Environmental Protection Law No. 52 of 2006." *Journal of Politics and Law*; Vol. 7 (3) pp. 8-19. www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/jpl/article/download/39769/22056
- The Royal Department for Environment Protection - Rangers Website: <http://www.rangers.psd.gov.jo/?q=>

Week 12

Class: Eco-Feminism

Readings:

- Tassabehji R., 2011. "The Rising Voices of Arab Women – From Social Activism to Eco-Feminism." In *Green Prophet* <http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/04/arab-women-eco-feminism/>
- UN Women Report, 2018. "Rural Women and Climate Change in Jordan" UN Women Jordan Country Office. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/66494.pdf>

Week 13

Class: Jordan Sustainable Development: Where to?

Potentials of Sustainable Development in Jordan

Readings:

- Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, 2015. "Jordan Statement at the UN Sustainable Development Summit." MOP <http://www.mop.gov.jo/DetailsPage/NewsDetailsEN.aspx?NewsID=648>
- Hussein H. 2017. "A critique of water scarcity discourses in educational policy and textbooks in Jordan, *The Journal of Environmental Education* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958964.2017.1373620>
- Hamdan W, 2017. "Sustainability Perspectives for Amman." EcoMENA <https://www.ecomena.org/sustainability-amman/>

Week 14

Class: Final Paper Presentations

Final Paper Due by 11:59pm

Course Materials

Readings

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this course, there is no text book and most of the readings are the available up to date reports, articles and researches that address each topic. Here are few as an example:

- Saab N., 2017. "The Arab Environment in Ten Years. Instability Challenges Sustainability." *Quaderns de la Mediterrània* 25, 2017: 93-103.
- https://www.iemed.org/observatori/arees-danalisi/arxiu-adjunts/quaderns-de-la-mediterrania/qm25/arab_environment_instability_Najib_Saab_QM25_en.pdf
- Ministry of Environment, 2016. "Jordan's State of Environment Second Report, Technical Summary." P: 39-59

- <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/En/Documents/Technical%20Summary.pdf>
- Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, 2017. "Jordan's Way to Sustainable Development: First National Voluntary review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda." MOP Amman, Jordan. P. 35-57
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16289Jordan.pdf> Ministry of Environment, 2013. "The National Climate Change Policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2013-2020." Ministry of Environment, Jordan. P: 24-32 http://www.moenv.gov.jo/AR/PDFs/Climate%20change%20policy_PDF.pdf
- MWI, 2016. "National Water Strategy of Jordan, 2016 – 2025." Jordan Ministry of Water and Irrigation. P: 8-21
- [http://www.mwi.gov.jo/sites/en-us/Hot%20Issues/Strategic%20Documents%20of%20The%20Water%20Sector/National%20Water%20Strategy%20\(2016-2025\)-25.2.2016.pdf](http://www.mwi.gov.jo/sites/en-us/Hot%20Issues/Strategic%20Documents%20of%20The%20Water%20Sector/National%20Water%20Strategy%20(2016-2025)-25.2.2016.pdf)
- Mercy Corps, 2014. "Tapped Out: Water Scarcity and Refugee Pressures in Jordan." Mercy Corps. P. 18-33 http://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/MercyCorps_TappedOut_JordanWaterReport_March2014.pdf
- Haddadin M., 2006. "Conflict resolution and Regional cooperation." In Haddadin, M. "Water Resources in Jordan: Evolving Policies for Development, the Environment, and Conflict Resolution Resources for the Future." RFF Press, Washington DC. P: 236-263. In Print.
- Haddadin M. J., 2002. "Water in the Middle East Peace Process." The Geographical Journal, Vol. 168 (4), p. 324-340.
- Ferragina, Eugenia, 2008. "The Effect of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on the Water Resources of the Jordan River Basin." Global Environment 2: 152–170. <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/4596>
- UNDP, 2018. "Climate Change Adaptation in the Arab States; Best practices and lessons learned." United Nations Development Programme. P: 23-39
- <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Climate%20and%20Disaster%20Resilience/Climate%20Change/Arab%20States-CCA.pdf>
- UN Women Report, 2018. "Rural Women and Climate Change in Jordan" UN Women Jordan Country Office.
- <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/66494.pdf>