

# The Water Planet 2007

Course 460:204:01 Syllabus

Prof. Yair Rosenthal  
Rm. 211C IMCS, Cook College  
932-6555 ext. 250

Loree Building, RM-022: T,TH 2:15 – 3:35

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Date	Day	Topic	Reading
16-Jan	T	The Earth system	ch 1
18-Jan	TH	The planetary system	ch 2
23-Jan	T	The sun, giver of life	ch 3
25-Jan	TH	Plate tectonics	ch 4
29-Jan	T	The Earth's evolving crust	ch 8
1-Feb	TH	The properties of water	
6-Feb	T	Water on land	ch 9
8-Feb	TH	Groundwater	
13-Feb	T	The world of snow and ice	ch 10
15-Feb	TH	The world ocean I	ch 11
20-Feb	T	The world ocean II	
22-Feb	TH	The world ocean III	
27-Feb	T	The Atmosphere	ch 12
1-Mar	TH	Winds, weather and deserts	ch 13
6-Mar	T	A planetary perspective on life	ch 15
8-Mar	TH	<i>Mid-term</i>	<i>problem set due 3/20/07</i>
13-Mar	T	<b>Spring break</b>	
15-Mar	TH	<b>Spring break</b>	
20-Mar	T	Biogeochemical cycles I	ch 16
22-Mar	TH	History of the biosphere I	ch 17
27-Mar	T	History of the biosphere II	
29-Mar	TH	The Earth's changing climate I	ch 14
3-Apr	T	The Earth's changing climate II	
5-Apr	TH	Earth's resources I	ch 18
10-Apr	T	Earth's resources II	
12-Apr	TH	Global Change I: the atmosphere	ch 20
17-Apr	T	Global Change I: cont.	
19-Apr	TH	Global change II: the hydrosphere	
24-Apr	T	Global change III: the biosphere	
26-Apr	TH	Concluding session	
8-May	T	<i>Final Exam 8am – 11am</i>	

## Course Description

This is an introductory course for non-science majors that deals with The Earth as an integrated system and explores the interactions between its major components: the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and the biosphere. In the first part of the course we'll explore the evolution of the earth system and the natural processes governing global environmental change. In the second part of the course we'll assess how human activities have influenced the natural system and examine their consequences to our environment.

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

**Webpage:** <http://marine.rutgers.edu/faculty/rosentha/rosenthal.html>

**Professor Yair Rosenthal's email:** rosentha@marine.rutgers.edu

**Text:** The Blue Planet by Skinner, Porter & Botkin ISBN 0-471-16114-4

Available at:

Co-op Store on the Cook/Douglass Campus

New Brunswick

(book's cost is ~\$113.35)

<b>Grading:</b>	Problem set & quizzes	20%
	Mid-term	40%
	Final	40%

"No make-up exams will be given without WRITTEN documentation from a Rutgers University official."