

Rivers have always been important to humans: they have inspired music and art, guided travelers, shaped food-ways, carried away waste, and altered landscapes. Rivers are a powerful presence in many narratives, appearing as watery roads, explicit borders, metaphors for the passage of time, valuable resources, and latent threats.

Recent efforts to improve human-river relations have refocused our attention on the status of rivers, river restoration activities, and our capacity to understand rivers. This course introduces students to river-related methodologies and topics in the environmental humanities.

We'll explore human-river relations as we engage in active reading, robust in-class discussions, and collaborative problem solving projects. This in-person course includes an optional field trip.

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