



**NEMZETI
KÖZZSZOLGÁLATI
EGYETEM**
LUDOVIKA

VÍZTUDOMÁNYI KAR

FINAL EXAM TOPICS

INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY (MA)



2026. BUDAPEST

- 1. Present the hydrologic cycle and the different forms of water on Earth**
- 2. Clouds are formed by small water droplets or by small pieces of ice. How can they stay at high altitudes? Why clouds do not fall down to the ground?**
- 3. How would you characterize the flood wave period of a creek?**
- 4. The "Anthropocene" phenomenon: history of global trends, pressures resulting in the "peak everything" era**
 - turning points, "revolutions" for the human-environment interaction
 - global megatrends of the 20th century
 - impact on human/social capital and natural capital
 - Planetary Boundaries: meaning of the term, key subsystems included
- 5. Natural Capital in the 21st Century: key messages of the main post-2015 reports from IPBES, the Resource Panel, and the IPCC**
 - carrying capacity of natural resources for the material flow of the real economy
 - ecological services
 - trends of natural resource changes over the past 50 years
 - "doughnut economy", "prosperity without growth", circular economy as principles
- 6. Water as a key issue for UN Agencies and Programs. Water as a horizontal and vertical issue in the UN Sustainable Development Goals system. The post-2018 World Water Development reports.**
 - ecological and economic roles of water
 - UN agencies and programs depending on different aspects of access to water
 - UN Water: a co-ordination platform
 - the main themes and key conclusions of the post-2018 UN World Water Development Reports
- 7. Sources and structure of international water law. Principles of international water law under the 1997 New York Convention**
 - What are the sources of international water law
 - the role of scholarly bodies in the development of international water law
 - the international treaty framework (global conventions, regional and basin treaties, bilateral agreements)
 - international judicial activities, the main water-related cases
 - evolution of the principles of international water law
 - the three core principles of international water law under the Convention
- 8. The evolution of EU water law**
 - phases of EU water law development

- outline of the Urban Waste Water Directive and the Drinking Water Directive
- outline of the Water Framework Directive

9. Surface water quality management under EU water

- the system of surface water protection under the Water Framework Directive (general objectives, good water status and exemptions (Art. 4), River Basin Development Plan, program of measures)
- the Priority Substances Directive
- the Urban Waste Water Directive

10. Rules of transboundary water governance under EU water law

- cooperation requirements under the Water Framework Directive vis-à-vis other member states
- cooperation requirements with third countries
- transboundary aspects of EU water law beyond the WFD (floods, urban waste water, priority substances)

11. New paths in water protection and water management laws

- use of cleaned waste water: necessity, caveats, solutions
- equal personality of rivers: legal personality in general, application of the concept to natural objects, examples, possible application to international water bodies

12. Water management, water protection, and waste management laws

- comparison and interrelationships
- constitutional legal background & major tasks and structure
- the most important legal tools, principles

13. Environmental impact assessment

- definition, procedural steps
- the role of the Environmental Impact Study
- effects to be examined, alternatives, socio-economic effects, effects of construction and phasing off public participation in EIA procedures
- the EIA type legal institutions

14. Criminal law protection of natural environment

- describe the elements of the crime of nature damage (Article 242 of the Criminal Code) and the qualified cases of the crime of nature damage.

15. Comparison of interpersonal and group communication

- goals, functions, factors of successful communication
- the concept of emerging qualities as higher levels of communication are established

16. Mass communication and internet communication

- comparison of the operation and effects of conventional media messages and Social Network Systems on the internet
- political and economic aspects

17. Intercultural communication

- factors of differences in communication cultures

- anxiety in intercultural communication and overcoming tools, face saving
- intercultural communication within one society: communication with the undercast, gender aspects

18. Application of conflict theories in the field of environmental and water conflicts

- stages and levels of conflicts, solutions and prices
- typical patterns of environmental conflicts
- role of sustainable development principles in conflict resolution

19. Background factors of water and environmental conflicts. Conflict management skills

- demography, historical ethnic and religious tensions
- rising and declining powers
- food as a possible trigger and condition of conflicts
- conflict management processes
- preparing for the process
- engaging in the process
- managing the process and its outcomes

20. Harnessing the limits of International law in conflict management

- What does international law offer for conflict management
- What are the limits and how to overcome them
- various alternative dispute resolution techniques
- definitions and comparison

21. Water conflicts in military history from antiquity to the 20th century

- describe the significance of water conflicts in the 21st century based on a freely chosen armed conflict
- describe the importance of water in the historical armed conflicts and crises of the Middle East

22. Global challenges and problems (energy, water and raw material scarcity) and their security consequences

- assessment of the global water scarcity problem and its security implications

23. The US foreign policy in historical perspective: the Cold War

- meaning of containment and the Long Telegram
- institutionalization of the Cold War (Truman doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, Warsaw Pact)
- nuclear deterrence and the US strategies (mass retaliation, flexible response, missile defense)
- the Soviet Union in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s
- briefly summarize the most important events (Berlin crisis, Suez and the Hungarian revolution, Cuban missile crisis, détente and the Helsinki Process, opening to China; the high level talks of the 1980s)

24. Theories of International Relations

- the basic assumptions related to the theory (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism)
- evolution of the theories

- What do the theories say about: states, international relations, and the international system?
 - What is the central motivation behind international relations (eg. power, security, cooperation, beliefs)?
 - explain a recent international event (eg. the war in Ukraine)
- (very) short description of the event
- explain the event according to the chosen theory
 - drivers of the event (what caused it)
 - main actors
 - main goals
 - possible solutions and consequences

25. Hydro-diplomacy

- the concept of hydro-diplomacy – definitions
- the concept of hydro-diplomacy – comparison with other concepts related to transboundary water management
- various track of hydro-diplomacy and their applications

26. Explanation of the difference between community water and commodity water. How would you ensure a sustainable and equitable water resource use?

- initial distribution
- production input, allocation, allocation efficiency
- monitoring
- legal environmental constraints
- examples case

27. Is it a good idea to help economic entities (farmers, industrial producers) by subsidizing water use? What are the benefits and drawbacks of such a subsidy from an individual and a public perspective (with examples)? What are the feasible alternatives of subsidies of water use?

- production input allocation by prices
- regulate production efficiency differences
- lack of innovation
- vested interests
- access to new markets, improving bargaining power, co-operation among farmers along the product value chain

28. Management of transboundary water projects (TWPs)

- projects – definition, classifications, examples of TWPs
- project management cycle and processes
- results-based approach to project management – key features, logic models
- use of logical framework
- management of TWPs through river basin organizations – key features, opportunities, benefits, challenges

29. International water governance (IWG)

- water-related challenges that the institutions for IWG deal with
- factors affecting IWG
- role of the institutions for IWG (in dealing with hydro-political resilience / hydro-political vulnerability) & Institutional typology of IWG – key features of global, regional, basin, and bilateral institutions

30. Transboundary water cooperation in the Danube river basin

- history and main challenges of cooperation
- legal framework for cooperation – Belgrade Convention, Sofia Convention, Sava Agreement, bilateral agreements
- institutional framework for cooperation – Danube Commission, ICPDR, Sava Commission, bilateral commissions
- role of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

31. The notion of water governance and its relationship to water management, water law, and water policy. The four dimensions of water governance

- notion of governance
- relationship between government and governance
- what is water governance? components of main definitions
- critical relationships: water management, water policy, water E-law
- the four dimensions of water governance: social, economic, political, environmental
- ethical and value-based considerations

32. What are the core water governance functions and institutional variables that shape the design of water governance systems?

- policy- and law (rule)-making
- administrative decision-making and supervision
- actual management of water resources
- main design variables: degree of centralization/autonomy, geographical scale, role of non-governmental actors

33. Geography of transboundary water governance

- what are transboundary river basins?
- describe the number and distribution of transboundary river basins around the world
- basin typology and their impact of hydro-politics
- what are federal rivers and how do they relate to transboundary river basins

34. Hydro-political hotspots in the world

- what is a hydro-political hotspot?
- describe three major contemporary hotspots and the nature of the underlying conflict

35. The hydro-political cooperation dilemma and the key hydro-political theories

- the spatial misfit, the collective action problem of shared waters and the hydro-political cooperation dilemma
- the main relevant hydro-political theories
- water wars thesis
- water nationalism
- hydro-hegemony
- institutionalism

36. Key questions of transboundary water governance addressed by international water law

- water allocation
- water quantity
- hydrological variability
- institutional questions
- institutional questions (procedures for interventions in the basin with transboundary impacts, monitoring and exchange of information, institutional frameworks of cooperation, dispute settlement)