

The Water Crisis in Literature & Film



**FRENCH 228 A offered with
LIT 228 A/CHID 270 A**

**Winter 2021
MW 1:30-3:20pm
Prof. Richard Watts**

**5 credits (VLPA/I&S)
Taught in English
Questions?
email frenital@uw.edu**

This course addresses the cultural significance of water with the aim of understanding how water's meaning is changing as we become more conscious of risks posed by pollution, scarcity/overabundance (as a function of political economies and climate), infrastructure, and other factors. We get at this emergent meaning of water by interpreting a variety of documents and objects—literature (e.g., *Masters of the Dew*), cinema (e.g., *Even the Rain*), landscape architecture (from the fountains of Versailles to the Brightwater sewage treatment plant in Woodinville, WA). While no ten-week course could pretend to give a comprehensive and global view of a problem as complex as our relation to water, we will study novels, essays, films, fountains, art installations, and other cultural archives from Western Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, Asia, the Caribbean, and North and South America with a view to understanding the differential distribution of the water crisis and the variety of aesthetic, cultural, and political responses to it.