

Texas A&M University – San Antonio
Water Resources Science and Technology
Department of Natural Sciences

WATR 4310/5335

Desalination and Emerging Technologies (3 credit hours)

Fall 2025, MW 4:00 – 5:15 pm

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Office Hours: SciTech Building (STB), Room 349D (office). Hours: MW, 1:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment at other times. You may also call (ext. 2815) or leave a message to me.

Books: (note – none of the on-the-shelf books available on the subject of desalination is designed in conventional textbook format due to the evolving nature of the technology. As such, the required book is best suited for the course with introductory nature.)

Required book: Bazargan, A. 2018. *A Multidisciplinary Introduction to Desalination*. The International Water Association/River Publications, Denmark (ISBN: 978-1780409153)

Reference book: Voutchkov, N. 2014. *Desalination Engineering: Operation and Maintenance* McGraw-Hill Education, New York, N.Y. (ISBN-13: 978-0071804219)

Course Description: This course will introduce both well-established desalination technologies and developing ones. The first part of the course will focus on membrane-driven systems such as micro- and ultra-filtration, reverse osmosis and forward osmosis. Followed by brief introduction of thermal-driven processes. The second part of the course will discuss developing technologies such as electrodialysis, electrocapacitive de-ionization, solvent extraction, and small-scale desalination solutions known as atmospheric water harvesting. Students will participate in small-group cooperative term projects, including a design project using reverse osmosis process and a humanitarian project from which a scientific report will be written. Results of the research will be orally presented to the class as a scientific report/paper.

Learning Outcomes: This course is to familiarize the student with the principles of desalination technologies, as well as the regulatory and economic challenges associated with the existing technologies. Specifically:

- a. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate scientific information through oral and written formats;
- b. Students will gain a familiarity with brine water characterization, the operating principles and fundamental design component of the introduced desalination processes.

- c. Students will gain experience in conceptual design of desalination system using existing desalination plants as examples; and
- d. Students will be able to use and understand the primary scientific literature associated with new desalination processes and applications.

Policy to Use AI-assisted Technology: Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Course Requirements: Typically, Mondays will be lecture days, while Wednesdays will be partially discussion days. Students are expected to attend all lectures, and come prepared for discussions. Discussions are meant to explore desalination processes or applications that are still in early stage of development and we will discuss papers in which the authors presented new data at the time of publication. All students will be graded on discussion contribution during each discussion, and discussion leading during an assigned discussion. *Attendance during discussions is mandatory*, and attendance is reflected in the grade (see course grading, below).

Course Grading: The course grades are broken down as follows: Midterm exam (25%); Final exam (25%), class projects (40%), and contributions to/leading discussions (10%). Grades will be based on the percentage of points earned from the total (90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D). In principle, grade curving will not be used in this course.

Policies:

- 1) **No make-up exams will be given without approval before a scheduled exam. Unexcused, missed exams, receive a score of zero.**
- 2) **Having more than one unexcused absence for a discussion day will lower the discussion score one full letter grade for each unexcused absence.**
- 3) Use of electronic devices (phones, computers, etc.) is not allowed without permission. Use of such devices for voice, text, or internet applications during a lecture is unprofessional.
- 4) Academic integrity is expected of all students at all times (see current Texas A&M University – San Antonio academic catalog). **Make sure you take care of all personal needs (e.g. bathroom, etc.) before exams. Leaving the room during an exam for any reason ends the exam.**
- 5) **Attitude and perseverance are everything!** Performance is more than just about grades. I am a big proponent of note-taking, because writing notes help you organize your thoughts and focus on lectures. Do not be over-confident of your photographic memory.

Tentative Outline of Topics

Week	Date	Class Schedule	Notes
1	8/25	Class introduction; Overview of desalination technologies; Water supply technology portfolio	Reading: Ch. 1, 2, 19, 20
	8/27		
2	9/1	Labor Day Holiday	- Intro to class project I - Reading: Ch. 6.1, 6.2, 11.1 - Assignment I
	9/3	Water quality	
3	9/8	Fundamentals of membrane filtration	- Reading: Ch 4 - Reading: supplemental material I & II
	9/10		
4	9/15	RO design criteria	- Reading: SM Sec III
	9/17		Discussion I: RO applications Assignment II
5	9/22	RO design process	- Reading: SM Sec III - Design
	9/24		
6	9/29	Forward osmosis	- Reading: 3.4, 6.3, 12.4 - Reading: SM Sec IV
	10/1		Discussion II: FO applications Assignment III
7	10/6	Forward osmosis	- Reading: Ch 3.4.1, 5.1-5.4
	10/8		
8	10/13	Review	
	10/15	Midterm Exam	
9	10/20	Fundamentals of electrochemical methods	- Intro to term project II
	10/22		
10	10/27	Electrodialysis	- Reading: Ch 6.4
	10/29		Assignment IV
11	11/3	Capacitive deionization	- Reading: Ch 12.7
	11/5		Discussion: Journal readings Assignment V
12	11/10	Solvent extraction	- Supplementals
	11/12		Discussion: Journal readings
13	11/17	Energy considerations	- Supplementals
	11/19		Discussion: Journal readings
14	11/24	Project presentation	- Reading: Ch 14
	11/26		Thanksgiving
15	12/1	Review and discussion	
	12/3		
16		Final Exam Week	

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non- Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Office Hours: All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to "by appointment." Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours you are expected to set. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside your office door (where applicable).

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may

be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health

and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct ([https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-andresponsibilities/ documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf](https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-andresponsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf)) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).