



GRADUATE SEMINAR

PRESENTER:

Dr. Jon Taylor

Associate Dean for Faculty Success, College of Liberal and Fine Arts
Department Chair, Department of Political Science and Geography
Professor of Political Science
UTSA

DATE:

Friday
March 29, 2024



TIME:

4:00-5:00 PM



LOCATION:

Hybrid Event
FLN 2.01.20

LINK TO ACCESS MEETING:

<https://utsa.zoom.us/j/95395856370?pwd=ckF3QndLWDJ5ZkdPNnU0MkpaZGRNUT09>

Thirsty, Vulnerable, and Struggling to Avoid Disaster: Assessing the Trajectory of Current and Future Texas' Water Policy

ABSTRACT

Texas is at a critical juncture. The state's population – approximately 31 million in 2023 – is projected to increase between 3-5 million people by the Texas Bicentennial in 2036. Based on current projections, by 2060 Texas will be home to anywhere between 44-54 million people. While the state is experiencing unprecedented population growth, a robust economy, and record budget surpluses, myriad issues such as urbanization, recurrent droughts, groundwater contamination, vulnerability to natural disasters, an aging and deteriorating water infrastructure, and inadequate policies loom as major threats to the so-called "Texas Miracle." I will discuss impact of the state's recent changes in water laws and policies aimed at increasing investment in water infrastructure, the influence of low interest by elected officials, voters, and news media on Texas' struggle to address critical water needs, and the future direction of the state's policies that will likely be necessary to avoid a crisis that could have statewide, national, and international consequences.

BIOGRAPHY

Jon Taylor is a Professor of Political Science, Chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography, and Associate Dean for Faculty Success in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma. His areas of academic specialty are in Chinese politics and public policy, Chinese and U.S. urban politics and urbanization, and Texas and San Antonio politics, policy, and governance.