Announcing a new PsTL course:
PsTL 4216: Solving Complex Problems: Community-Based Approaches

The Mississippi, Local and Global:
Community-Based Approaches to Living with Rivers, Sustainably

Taught by Linda Buturian, Spring 2014, Thursdays, 12:30-3:00, 4 credits, class # 67318.

Love the Mississippi? Let’s get to know it better. Did you know that our campus is part of the National River and Recreation Area? And the Mississippi River is among the most polluted rivers in the United States?

This course is shaped by the understanding that challenges which impact local, national, and global communities require innovative solutions that can’t be addressed by any single discipline. We will be concentrating our area of research on community based approaches to issues along the Mississippi as well as citizen based efforts to address challenges on other global rivers including the Mekong and Ganges Rivers.

In PsTL 4216, each student will:
- Develop a community-based research plan using methodologies from two disciplines which each student will choose (for example, elementary education and art).
- Create a project which communicates your findings: options include digital story, website page, public presentation, article, research paper, survey, photographs and accompanying essays.
- Use public and social media outlets to share your project, and then research the effects of your work.

Together we will:
- Conduct field work along the Mississippi River with an urban planner and photographer, tour the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, and take photos and audio of our experiences.
- Have conversations with guest speakers from the community and the University.
- Share our findings with the public.
- Discover more about this living, dynamic river we are fortunate to claim as part of our university campus, as well as learning more about international rivers around the world.

Linda Buturian (butur001@umn.edu) has taught at the U for 10 years in writing, art, and literature. She has designed and taught an integrated seminar on water resources, where students created digital stories on a relevant water topic. See [http://www.cehd.umn.edu/PSTL/Water/](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/PSTL/Water/). Linda has traveled to New Zealand and Thailand to research water resource and sustainability issues. She is the author of *World Gone Beautiful: Life Along the Rum River.*