

Great Rivers of the World

The purpose of this seminar is to explore the role of Great Rivers of the World in the development of modern civilizations and the contemporary geopolitical status quo.

Moderator:	Jim Scott
Date and Time:	Tuesday 10:00 AM - Noon 10 weeks, starting February 20, 2018
Format:	Seminar
Location:	Applewood, The Tavern, Amherst

Description: The major rivers of the world have been the cradle of the historical and cultural development of the modern world. Some modern cities exist because they are located on major rivers. When we think of the cultures that have developed along the banks of such major rivers as the Amazon, Mississippi, Yangtze, Ganges, Nile and the Rhine, for example, we realize the importance of these rivers as centers of trade, communication, culture, politics and expressions in literature and art. This seminar will explore from various points of view a number of rivers throughout the world that have influenced the current cultural and political structure of our modern geography. This will bring cultural, political, historical, sociological, linguistic and artistic points of view into the understanding of the importance of Great Rivers in the status of modern cultures and communities.

Role of participants: Each participant will choose a major river, research its important characteristics, make a 20 to 30 minute presentation on the river, and lead a discussion on this topic. Rivers are chosen on a first-come basis with the approval of the moderator.

Resources: There is no specific text for the course, but three books available online are:

Great Rivers of the World, Paolo Novaresio

Rivers of the World, James Penn

Great Rivers of the World, Alexander Frater

Materials on specific rivers are available in local libraries and online.

About the Moderator: Jim Scott is a long-time member of 5CLIR, and he has moderated many seminars on a wide variety of topics.

Maximum number of participants: 16

Emeriti accepted: yes

Course # 18SGR