Given that California currently faces one of its most severe droughts on record, it is especially important to learn more about a period and place where conscious engineering of water use allowed a culture to flourish over hundreds of years, the Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley. The Paiute developed a sophisticated system of irrigation canals that made the valley bloom.

For a long time, this history was absent from the popular narrative of the California ‘water wars.’ Through an ongoing community partnership in the ACES class, *Researching Water in the West* (CW 50/150AC), this fascinating history will be presented by a Paiute tribal member, Berkeley faculty, the Bancroft curator and a former AC student, whose lives have been changed by unearthing and exploring this story.