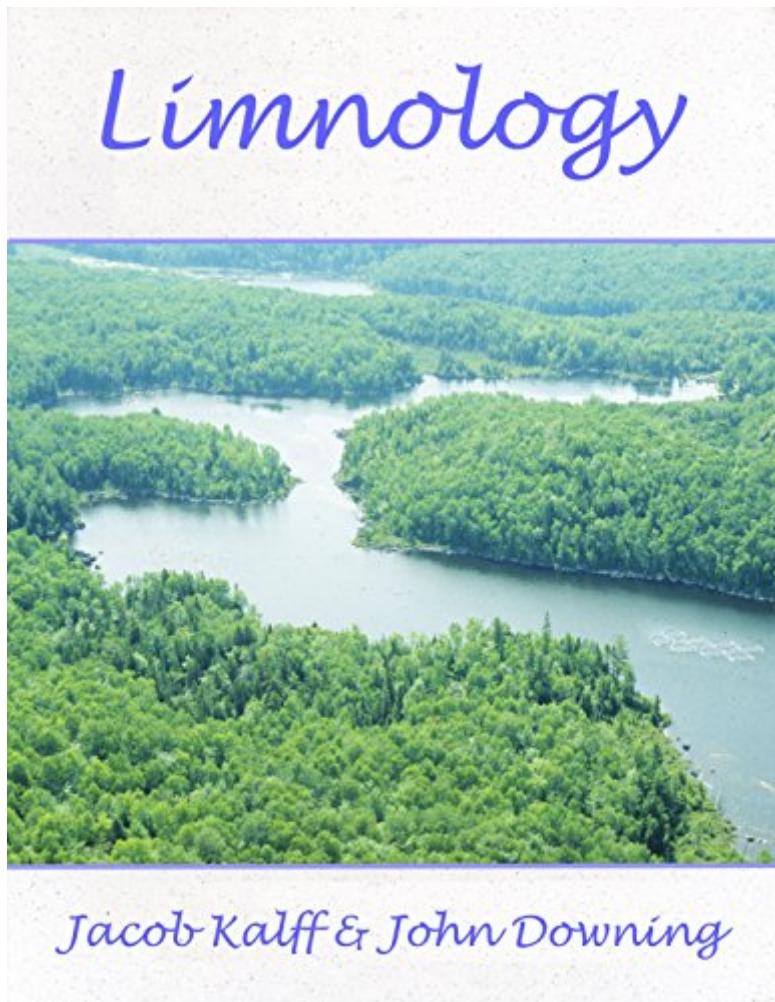


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Limnology: Inland Water Ecosystems



Synopsis

A general and advanced textbook covering the science of limnology. It is oriented toward college and university students as well as graduate students and advanced scientists. The text was created in 2001 but has been updated by adding all new figures and illustrations, many in color. The book is international in subject matter and is data-driven. It is richly illustrated with over 650 figures, illustrations, photographs, tables and equations. Topics include analyses of catchments and the terrestrial setting of inland waters, the history of limnology, the uniqueness of water, water resources, water pollution, hydrology, climate, the origin of lakes and streams, catchment and water body morphometry, material transport into and out of aquatic systems, light, temperature and stratification, heat budgets, physical limnology, salinity and ionic composition, aquatic carbon chemistry, dissolved oxygen, oxidation-reduction potential, phosphorus, nitrogen, iron, manganese, sulfur, sediment and sedimentation, phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthos, bacteria and other microbes, macrophytes, fish, water birds, acidification, contaminants, and reservoir limnology.

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the best available limnology texts. Great coverage of physical limnology and history of the discipline. Perhaps lacking in biological concepts (perhaps this is biased, as I'm an ecologist).

Definitely a great text to have on hand. A more current text in this style would be fantastic.

Great book but buyer beware if you buy it used in very good condition. The spine on mine had come undone right out of the box

great book, I used it for grad school and found it very easy to understand while not being too simple.

This product met my expectations.

I just finished teaching a senior-level course in limnology, and we used Kalff's book as our text. Would I do that again? I don't think so. First of all, we use textbooks as MUCH more than reference material for my class. Each day every class member (including the instructor) completes an assigned reading from the text as class prep. Those readings are usually entire chapters from the text. We then get together, I give a mini-lecture and we spend the rest of the time discussing ideas, concepts, and questions from the reading for the day. I can now safely and completely honestly say that, except for a couple of pages here and there, I've read and discussed this entire text. First of all, strengths: 1) Length - the book is of a manageable size for a one-semester intro to limnology course. 2) Chapter lengths - with only a couple of exceptions, the chapters are reasonable length. 3) International focus - Kalff uses examples from just about everywhere, including polar to tropical regions, and from all around the world. I have to admit that I liked the string of examples that popped up throughout the book about Lake Baikal (Russia). 4) The list of topics covered in the book is appropriate for the field. OK, weaknesses: 1) It seemed like Kalff wasn't able to maintain a consistent level of rigor within and between chapters. Sometimes the readings were quite easy, and other times the topics were extremely difficult for the students to manage (class = University juniors and seniors). 2) The 2-letter country designations were a major pain! I wish he had just included the country name in the body of the text rather than using those confusing 2-letter designations. 3) Acronyms run wild in this book. Since I've had training in this field I understand the tendency of limnologists to use acronyms for many things, but this book had the worst case of acronyms I'd ever seen! I thought seriously about going through the book and counting up the number he used, but, frankly, I just don't have the time to do that. The heavy load of acronyms made the readings and discussions extremely cumbersome. 4) Black triangle sections in chapters - Kalff (or his editor) had the idea of designating some sections of chapters as black triangle sections - those are "optional" sections that might be better used by graduate students (at least according to the book's

introduction), but I found the contents of those sections to be all over the place in terms of level of rigor, etc., and these sections often included examples that I'd want any student being introduced to limnology to hear about. It was tough to figure out their real purpose. My students just viewed them as "not important enough to bother with".5) A significant amount of the data used and figures presented in the book were sadly outdated.6) Lastly, I wish there had been more connections with current environmental problems that affect inland aquatic systems. All in all, this is an adequate book, but I don't see it as being either a great textbook to learn and teach from or a great reference book. I'll probably go back to Wetzel's book the next time I offer my course. We'll see. I discussed the merits of the book with my students and they had similar thoughts and opinions to the ones I shared here. Kalff's book is a good effort, but I just don't see it working for me the way I hoped it would. 2.5 - 3 stars.

This is a GREAT book for the beginning or advanced limnologist. Kalff was a significant contributor to our understanding of limnology with his life's research, and he shows a mastery of the concepts and excellent skill in explanations. The book considers lakes as well as wetlands, stream and rivers. The chapters are short (a blessing for any student) and a joy to read, with each chapter focused specifically on one process which is explained well. You will have several, "oh, cool!" moments. The figures really add to the text in illustrating the concepts and giving you new trivia with which to impress your friends. The book is also structured for beginner and more advanced classes, so your class (or you) can decide how far in depth you want to go into a topic. I also appreciate the explanation of fundamental limnology versus applied limnology, their difference and interconnectedness and the importance of both today. He also indicates where there are debates in the scientific world instead of presenting things as absolute truth. This book is concise, well-written, detailed, and trains you to think critically like a limnologist.

My professors chose this book for a 4000/5000 level limnology class and it reads more like an undergraduate/high school text. I don't believe Kalff did a thorough job explaining concepts because he tried to oversimplify the concepts. Wetzel's LIMNOLOGY is a much better text.

The book was high above my expectations for the price that I received it at.

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