

# Environmental Politics in the USA

*Melanie Meunier*

*Spring Semester*

*Office: 426*

*Email: mmeunier@unistra.fr*

*Evaluation: oral examination in May, date TBA.*

## **Course objectives:**

To take stock of the current state of environmental protection in the United States

To review American attitudes towards nature and natural resources

To analyze the historical, cultural, and political contexts that shaped current policies

To highlight key events, developments or periods that illustrate all of the above

## **Selected topics include :**

- Review of the political institutions involved in environmental and energy policy
- Political polarization and its impact on policy
- Philosophical underpinnings of the dominant values in American culture
- Resource depletion and the corresponding rise of ecological thought
- The creation of national parks, incipient conservation efforts
- The extension of rights to the natural world
- Citizen activism and the birth of environmentalism
- Climate change, the American response to it, and international agreements

## **Selected bibliography**

Carson, Rachel, *Silent Spring*, Fawcett Crest, 1962

Clarke, Jeanne and Hanna Cortner, *The State and Nature: Voices Heard, Voices Unheard in America's Environmental Dialogue*, Prentice Hall, 2002

Fox, Stephen, *The American Conservation Movement: John Muir and His Legacy*, University of Wisconsin Press, 1985

Hays, Samuel P., *A History of Environmental Politics Since 1945*, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000

Leopold, Aldo, *A Sand County Almanac*, Oxford University Press, 1966

Nash, Roderick Frazier, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, Yale University Press, 2014 (or earlier editions, first published 1967)

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Runte Alfred, *National Parks: The American Experience*, Taylor Trade Publishing, 2010

Steiguer J.E. de, *The Age of Environmentalism*, McGraw-Hill, 1997

Thoreau, Henry David,

Worster, Donald, *Dust Bowl*, Oxford University Press, 1979 and any of his other books

Yvard-Djahansouz, Gelareh, *Histoire du mouvement écologique américain*, Ellipses, 2010