

## **Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies**

### *ENST 495*

#### *Course Description*

This course focuses on environmental problems in California and the southwest, especially climate change and water issues. We will examine and evaluate the politics involved in addressing these problems at the state and local level, and will explore policy and social challenges of designing effective responses. We will also look at how society has reacted to growing scientific evidence on environmental issues and examine trends in public attitudes. Finally, we will look at how environmental issues have become part of the local cultural discourse and explore the opportunities of reintroducing urban populations to natural resources, especially the LA River. The course encourages students to integrate knowledge from previous courses as a basis for better understanding of our local environment.

The course includes two local daylong field trips. The field trips are mandatory (missing any of the field trips will result in failure in the class). On most other days the class will meet for 3 hours (exact timeslot will be announced in June).

#### *Course Objectives*

Students will gain an understanding of the complexity of local environmental issues and the role different interest groups play in addressing them. Students will acquire knowledge of policy debates and the design and implementation of climate policies and adaptation measures in California. We will explore and assess how society has reacted to local environmental problems and the opportunities we have to advance meaningful policy initiatives and social change.