

## **POSC 439: *Environmental Participation***

**Spring 2016**

**4 Units**

**Th 2-4:50**

This course examines questions of interest to students studying politics, the environment, and society:

- \* *Why do people participate in environmental politics?*
- \* *How is public response to environmental problems shaped?*
- \* *What new environmental strategies have been adopted by non-governmental organizations to fill in gaps in public policy?*
- \* *Why have some businesses taken the leadership in pursuing environmental sustainability?*

We will evaluate civic participation in international, national, and local environmental politics by using a variety of case studies, ranging from public participation in the Paris Climate Change COP-2015 to civic engagement in restoring the Los Angeles River. We will first discuss theories on public participation and civil society. We will then study the role environmental nongovernmental organizations (ENGOS) play in expanding civic participation, setting the public agenda, and shaping environmental policy-making. We will also evaluate the role businesses and market institutions have played in society's transition toward sustainability. Finally, we will discuss public attitudes on environmental issues, and look at community responses to specific environmental problems, including climate change.