COURSE DETAIL

THE POLITICAL ECOLOGIES OF SPAIN AND CALIFORNIA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Country
Spain

Host Institution
UC Center, Madrid

Program(s)
Contemporary Spain

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Sociology Political Science Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number
120

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
THE POLITICAL ECOLOGIES OF SPAIN AND CALIFORNIA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

UCEAP Transcript Title
POL ECOL/SPAIN & CA

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

This course compares the political ecologies of Spain and California, two regions of the world with significantly different environmental histories, political systems, and socio-economic and political actors but strikingly similar Mediterranean type ecosystems. In particular, this course focuses on two crucial environmental issues for both these regions—water and land use—and how these have emerged as central items in the political agendas in both regions. The course explores the nature of the so-called “water wars” in California and Spain and how both regions have attempted to reconcile conflicting public and private interests over water use rights. It also looks at landscape planning and how urbanization has often ignored crucial ecological disturbance processes, such as landscape fires, with unforeseen and often catastrophic consequences. The class excursions include a visit to the public company that provides water to the Madrid region, the Canal de Isabel II, to learn about water policy in Madrid, and to the chestnut forest ecosystems of two different autonomous regional community governments in Avila and Madrid to witness the diverging impacts of different governance policies on the same natural system. A meeting with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment to learn about landscape planning is also scheduled.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number

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Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed

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