



<https://theenvironment.weebly.com>



<https://www.theguardian.com>



<https://www.dailycartoonist.com>

CANG 9125 et CANG 9225

B2 __ Responses to Ecological Issues in America

Motivations:

The U.S. is seen as a global leader, yet also has one of the highest ecological footprints on the planet. This consumer society is a front-runner in the consumption of goods and energy, and also producing waste. U.S. responses to ecological issues have been faced with criticism, especially with regards to harmful corporate practices and greed, but there have been many US grassroots movements innovating powerful interventions to bring about positive environmental change. The focus of this course is to understand where certain environmental issues stem from as well as the creative problem solving that combats them.

Requirements:

1. Have an interest in both US culture and ecological issues.
2. Be willing to research, write, discuss, and present on ecological issues.
3. Be an active and positive participant in class.

Objectives:

This class gives an opportunity to explore and analyze how the US responds to a handful of ecological issues. By the end of this course, you should:

1. Have an increased understanding of politics, culture, and responses to current and ecological issues from an American perspective.
2. Be able to analyze and evaluate sources of media.
3. Have a further developed eco-conscious mindset.

Content:

Conversations will focus on U.S. responses to many different environmental issues, including: water management, alternative food sources, energy consumption, and more. Through the analysis of various media sources, students will learn to decipher, evaluate, and critique different media points. Sources of media will include: television programs, podcasts, news articles, videos, blogs, comics, artistic pieces, and others.

Students' homework will frequently involve light research and a written response related to an ecological issue.

As students will be studying a complex and diverse field of study in a short timeframe, the goal will not be to become subject-matter experts on specific topics, but rather to improve our personal discourse and expand analytical horizons.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in three ways: class participation and contribution, homework, and a final project that includes an essay and presentation.