Welcome to water policy in the American West. While the word environmental is not in the title, the course will focus on the environmental issues of water use and water resources development in the American West. In order to understand what our current water policies are now in the western United States, it is essential to explore the history of western water politics and action. It is also essential to define borders and dividing lines for examining water issues. Therefore, the class will be divided into three sections: the Intermountain West up to NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970); the Pacific Coast up to NEPA; and both areas after NEPA. (The sweeping law that is NEPA is shorthand for all of the environmental legislation that transformed water policy in the West on the federal, state, and local levels.)

Human beings have lived in the American West for at least 15,000 years, and possibly more. Their ways of life and their choices of where to live have largely been determined by the availability of fresh water. Most of the geographic area the course examines is semi-arid to arid, meaning that its inhabitants have dealt with scarce water resources, and the need to control water. All people who have lived in the West have developed methods and policies for providing sufficient water for consumption and irrigation. This course will examine what those methods have been, and what policies, if any, have sustained human existence in the arid West.

BOOKS

ES 176A Reader available at SBPrinters in the UCEN (Sections correspond to the three sections of the course).

Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water* (any edition will be fine).

EXAMS

There will be three in-class midterms. Please note the dates below in the schedule. The exams will be entirely essay, and based on the lecture and reading materials. The exams are scheduled for April 19, May 10, and June 8. The first two exams are during the regular class time. The third exam is on June 8 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in the regular class room.

SCHEDULE

**SECTION ONE: WATER POLICY IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST TO NEPA**

**WEEK ONE**

(March 29) Introduction: Two American Wests and What is Policy?

(March 31) The Intermountain West: Geography, Climate, and Prehistory

Readings: Reisner, Introduction and Chapter 1; Reader, Section One: Selection 1

**WEEK TWO**

(April 5) The Water History of the Intermountain West
(April 7) Water Policy for the Intermountain West to 1950
Readings: Reisner, Chapter 3; Reader, Section One, Selection 2

WEEK THREE
(April 12) Dividing the Waters of the Colorado River
(April 14) Western Water Policy 1950 to 1970
Readings: Reisner, Chapters 4 and 5; Reader, rest of Section One

WEEK FOUR
(April 19) Midterm #1

SECTION TWO: WATER POLICY ON THE PACIFIC COAST TO NEPA
(April 21) The Southwestern Pacific Coast: Geography, Climate, and Prehistory
Readings: Reader, Section 2, Selection 5

WEEK FIVE
(April 26) Urban versus Rural Water Policy
(April 28) The Great Aqueducts
Readings: Reisner, Chapters 2 and 6

WEEK SIX
(May 3) The Grand Water Plans for the West
(May 5) Urban Water Policy and Climate to 1970
Readings: Reisner, Chapters 7 and 8; Reader, rest of Section Two

WEEK SEVEN
(May 10) Midterm #2

SECTION THREE: POST-ENVIRONMENTAL WATER POLICY
(May 12) Guest Speaker: Lynn Rodriguez, Ventura County Planning Department

WEEK EIGHT
(May 17) Environmental Legislation and Water Policy
(May 19) Dam Wisdom and Dam Safety
Readings: Reisner, Chapters 8 and 9; Reader, Section 3, Selection 1

WEEK NINE
(May 24) The Peripheral Canal and Beyond
(May 26) Droughts and Western Water Policy
Readings: Reisner, Chapters 10 and 11; Reader, Section 3, Selection 2, begin

WEEK TEN
(May 31) Revisiting the Grand Water Plans and Desalination
(June 2) Conclusions and Review
Readings: Reisner, Chapters 12 and Epilogue; Reader, complete Selection 2

JUNE 8, (WEDNESDAY) 3rd MIDTERM IN REGULAR CLASSROOM (7PM TO 8:30PM)

The three midterms are all of equal value (33.3 percent each of the final grade). Please turn cell phones off during class.