











5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Zitouni Benedikte ;
Language :	English
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis
Prerequisites	<i>The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.</i>
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</p> <p>The course aims at getting a better understanding of today's environmental problems and their socio-political implications. For the environment involves societal stakes and political claims that are arresting and even difficult to grasp, let stand to resolve. That's why the course explores the classics, texts, theories and research that helped to disclose the social and political nature of the environment. This should enable students to better find their bearings in today's debate and analysis in environmental affairs.</p>
Evaluation methods	Open-book oral exam.
Teaching methods	Active use of articles i.e. compulsory reading material during the exam. If possible, invited lecturers during the semester.
Content	<p>During the course, we'll look at the ways in which social sciences have tackled and studied environmental questions for over a century. More particularly, we'll look at four different theoretical perspectives still active today: Neo-Marxism (a.o. David Harvey, Mike Davis) ; Human Ecology (a.o. Jared Diamond, Donna Haraway); Post-Cybernetics (a.o. James Lovelock, Lynn Margulis); and Deep Ecology (a.o. Arne Naess). For each perspective, we'll present a brief historical outline, texts and authors as well as some of the emblematic empirical cases these authors bring to our attention. We'll also touch upon the affinities between the theoretical endeavours and current or past political movements. Overall, we'll try and assess the possibilities and limitations as well as the kind of conversations each perspective can offer.</p>
Bibliography	<p>Recueil de textes (peut encore être modifié) (selon l'ordre des chapitres):</p> <p>Carolyn Merchant, 1980, "Mechanism as Power", <i>The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution</i>, New York: Harper Collins, pp. 216-235.</p> <p>Philippe Descola, 2013 (F 2005), "The Certainties of Naturalism" in <i>Beyond Nature and Culture</i>, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 172-200</p> <p>William Cronon, 1996, "The Trouble with Wilderness, or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature", W. Cronon, ed., <i>Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature</i>, Norton & Co, pp. 69-90.</p> <p>Naomi Klein, 2014, "Hot Money: How Free Market Fundamentalism Helped Overheat the Planet", <i>This Changes Everything: Capitalism Vs The Climate</i>, New York: Simon & Schuster, pp. 64-95.</p> <p>Mike Davis, 1998, "The Case for Letting Malibu Burn", <i>Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster</i>, New York: Vintage Books, pp. 95-146.</p> <p>Deborah Bird Rose, 2004, "Footprints", <i>Reports from a Wild Country: Ethics for Decolonisation</i>, Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, pp. 165-178.</p> <p>Thom Van Dooren, 2014, "Breeding Cranes: The Violent-Care of Captive Life", <i>Flight Ways: Life and Loss at the Edge of Extinction</i>, Columbia University Press, pp. 87-123.</p> <p>Jared Diamond, 2005 (1997), "Lethal Gift of Livestock", <i>Guns, Germs and Steel: a History of Everybody for the last 13,000 years</i>, London: Vintage, pp. 195-214.</p> <p>Donella Meadows, 1999, "Leverage Points. Places to Intervene in a System." <i>The Sustainability Institute</i> (first printed in <i>Whole Earth</i>, 1997), pp. 1-19.</p> <p>David Abram, 1997, <i>The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World</i>. "The Ecology of Magic". London: Vintage. pp. 3-29.</p> <p>Chaia Heller, 2005, "Biotechnology, Democracy, and Revolution", <i>Harbinger — A Journal for Social Ecology</i> (hosted by the Institute of Social Ecology's website), posted in Jan.</p>
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPB

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Law	DROB1BA	5	BDROI1124	
Bachelor in Law French-English (and French-English-Dutch)	DRAB1BA	5	BDRAN1165	
Bachelor in Law French-Dutch (and French-Dutch-English)	DRNB1BA	5	EMHUB1120	
Bachelor in Information and Communication	COMB1BA	5	BESPO1162 OR BESPO1160	
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French- English)	COAB1BA	5	BESPO1165 OR BESPO1160	
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French-Dutch- English)	COTB1BA	5	BESPO1161 OR BESPO1165	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology	SOCB1BA	5	BESPO1162 OR BESPO1160	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-English)	SOAB1BA	5	BESPO1165 OR BESPO1160	
Bachelor in Political Sciences	SPOB1BA	5	BESPO1162 OR BESPO1160	
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-English)	SPAB1BA	5	BESPO1165 OR BESPO1160	
Bachelor in Translation and Interpreting [Filière en communication interculturelle]	TIMB1BA	5		