



## AMERICAN CIVILISATION

Master in English and American Language, Literature and History  
Faculty of Liberal Arts

### Course information

Master year 1                      24 HOURS

Fall Semester                      5 ECTS

Seminars (S)

Professor: Chiara Salari (PhD. University Paris-Diderot and Roma Tre)

### Course description

#### **American Landscapes – Photography and the Environment (20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)**

This class focuses on the representation of landscape in American visual culture, with a specific interest in the role of photography within the strategies of visualization of territories and environments. Through the study of artistic, institutional, and amateur photographs or projects, we will also observe the transformations of the American landscape according to the evolution of digital media. Indeed, the geo-localization and the articulation of images to geographic information systems, as well as the miniaturization of mobile devices, contribute to the constitution of a new scopic system which no longer respects the visual conventions of the traditional landscape “view”. From 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries documentary representations of natural, urban and suburban places to postwar trip journals and contemporary practices on the altered environment of the Anthropocene, this seminar will explore the place of photography in visualizing and perceiving North American landscapes.

Course validation: continuous assessment: dissertation (ca. 3,000 words + complete bibliography).

### Bibliography

Trachtenberg, Alan. *Reading American Photographs. Images as History. Mathew Brady to Walker Evans*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1989.

Wells, Liz. *Land Matters: Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity*. London; New York: I.B. Tauris, 2011.

Campany, David, and Denise Wolff. *The Open Road: Photography & the American Road Trip*. New York: Aperture, 2014.

Wolfe, Ann M, and David B Walker. *The Altered Landscape: Photographs of a Changing Environment*. New York: Skira, 2011.

NB : Une sélection d'extraits de ces ouvrages et d'autres textes à lire pour chaque séance seront distribuées au début du semestre.