

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

HST 598 / BIO 591

M 12:40-3:30p Coor 4401

Instructors:

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Course description

This course is an advanced seminar exploring the historical and philosophical dimensions of human-environment interactions. It is reading and discussion intensive, focusing on the contemplation and critique of major works in history and philosophy that engage a range of environmental problems and concerns (e.g., climate change, land use, energy) and/or disciplinary/thematic issues in the humanities and the interpretive social sciences relevant to core environmental questions (e.g., environmental ethics, environmental science policy, and environmental politics).

Grading and attendance

Core of course is discussion, so attendance matters.

Every week, student will read one required book.

Twice a semester, student will prepare a book review and make an oral presentation on an elective book.

A final critical review essay (comparing two or more additional books from the optional reading list) will be submitted at the end of the semester.

Readings

All required books are on reserve at Noble Library.

All are available for purchase through the ASU Bookstore. You are, however, at liberty to buy books from any source you wish. Often on-line sources offer significant savings.

NB: You will only be responsible for *half* the books listed as required. Which half will be determined at our first meeting.

Miscellaneous class policies

1. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability or who must miss class for a documented religious holiday. Please inform us early in the semester if you need an accommodation.
2. Please turn off or silence your cell phones when you come into class.
3. Statement on academic integrity:

In the "Student Academic Integrity Policy" manual, ASU defines "Plagiarism" [as] using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately." You can find this definition at:

http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic_integrity.htm#definitions

Academic dishonesty, including inappropriate collaboration, will not be tolerated. There are severe sanctions for cheating, plagiarizing and any other form of dishonesty.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Jan 26

Introduction – Creation Stories

Read the following two articles ahead of time for this introductory class:

- (1) Lynn White, Jr., “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis”
Science 155(3767) (March 10, 1967): 1203-07 [M]
- (2) William Cronon, “A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative”
Journal of American History 78(4) March 1992: 1347-76 [P]

Feb 2

Classics

Required:

Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac* [M]
Donald Worster, *The Dust Bowl* [P]

Electives:

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*
Carl Sauer, *Land and Life*
_____, *Seeds, Spades, Hearths, and Herds, rev.*
George Perkins Marsh, *Man and Nature*
W.G. Hoskins, *The Making of the English Landscape*
B.T. Turner, et al, *The Earth As Transformed by Human Action*
Barry Commoner, *Science and Survival*

Feb 9

Climate Change

Required:

E.C. Pielou, *After the Ice Age* [M]
William Ruddiman, *Plows, Plagues, and Petroleum: How Humans Took Control of Climate* [P]

Electives:

John Imbrie and Kathrine Imbrie, *Ice Ages: Solving the Mystery*
Jean Grove, *The Little Ice Age*
Emanuel Ladurie, *Times of Feast, Times of Famine*
Brian Fagan, *The Long Summer*
Spencer Weart, *The Discovery of Global Warming*
Bill McKibben, *The End of Nature*
Gale Christianson, *Greenhouse. The 200-year Story of Global Warming*
Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts*
Johannes Iversen, *The Development of Denmark’s Nature Since the Last Glacial*

Feb 16

Water

Required:

Nancy Langston, *Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed* [M]
John Barry, *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* [P]

Electives:

Ari Kelman, *A River and Its City*
Norris Hundley, *The Great Thirst: Californians and Water, a History*
Richard White, *The Organic Machine*
Marc Cioc, *The Rhine: An Eco-History*
Ted Steinberg, *Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and
the Waters of New England*
Mark Fiege, *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in
the American West*
Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire*
Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert*
William Kahrl, *Water and Power: the Conflict over Los Angeles' Water
Supply in the Owens Valley*
H.V. Nelles, *The Politics of Development: Forests, Mines, and Hydropower
in Ontario, 1849-1841*
Joseph Stevens, *Hoover Dam*

Feb 23

Agriculture

Required:

Randal Beeman and James Pritchard, *A Green and Permanent Land* [M]
Wendell Berry, *The Unsettling of America* [P]

Electives:

Harriet Ritvo, *The Animal Estate: The English and Other Creatures in
the Victorian Age*
Steven Stoll, *Larding the Lean Earth*
Juliet Clutton-Brown, *A Natural History of Domesticated Mammals*
Mart Stewart, "What Nature Suffers to Groe": *Life, Labor, and Landscape on
the Georgia Coast, 1680-1920*
Herbert Guthrie-Smith, *Tutira. The History of a New Zealand Sheep Station*
William Balee, ed., *Advances in Historical Ecology*
Carl Sauer, *Seeds, Spades, Hearths, and Herds*
Rene Dubos, *The Wooing of Earth*
Deborah Fitzgerald, *Every Farm a Factory: The Industrial Ideal in American Agriculture*
Paul B. Thompson, *The Spirit of the Soil*

March 2

Exchanges

Required:

Jared Diamond, *Guns Germs, and Steel* [M]
Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism* [P]

Electives:

William McNeill, *Plagues and Peoples*
Hans Zinsser, *Rats, Lice, and People*
Eric Rolls, *They All Ran Wild* [Australia]
Elinor Melville, *A Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the
Conquest of Mexico*
Carl Sauer, *The Early Spanish Main*
Thomas Dunlap, *Nature and the English Diaspora*

John Richards, *The Unending Frontier: An Environmental History of the Early Modern World*
Alan Burdick, *Out of Eden. An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion*

March 9

Spring break

March 16

Knowledge

Required:

Samuel Hays, *Wars in the Woods: The Rise of Ecological Forestry in America* [all]

Dan Sarewitz, "How Science Makes Environmental Controversies Worse" [all]

Environmental Science & Policy 7 (2004) 385–403

Electives:

William Goetzmann, *New Lands, New Men: America and the Second Great Age of Discovery*

Clarence Glacken, *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought from Ancient Times to the 18th Century*

Wallace Stegner, *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*

Robert Kohler, *Landscapes and Labscapes: Exploring the Lab-Field Border in Biology*

_____, *All Creatures: Naturalists, Collectors, and Biodiversity 1850-1950*

Douglas Weiner, *Models of Nature* [Russia]

Dan Sarewitz, *The Futures of an Illusion*

Daniel Greenberg, *The Politics of Science*

Kat Anderson and Thomas Blackburn, ed., *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians*

Geoffrey Blaney, *Triumph of the Nomads*

Paul Minnis and Wayne Elisens, eds., *Biodiversity and Native America*

March 23

Energy

Required:

Travis Bradford, *Solar Revolution* [M]

John McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun* [P]

Electives:

Thomas Hughes, *Networks of Power: Electrification in Western Society*

David Nye, *Consuming Power: A Social History of American Energies*

Vaclav Smil, *Energy at the Crossroads*

_____, *Energy in World History*

Alfred Crosby, *Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy*

Daniel Yergin, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*

Jeff Wheelwright, *Degrees of Disaster* [Exxon Valdez spill]

John Perlin, *From Space to Earth: The Story of Solar Electricity*

Morton Mott-Smith, *The Concept of Energy Simply Explained*

March 30

Literature and Place

Required:

Edward Abbey, *The Monkeywrench Gang* [M]

Wallace Stegner, *Wolf Willow* [P]

Electives:

Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory*

Wendell Berry, *The Unsettling of America*

John McPhee, *Encounters with the Archdruid*

Barry Lopez, *Arctic Dreams*

Herbert Guthrie-Smith, *Tutira. The History of a New Zealand Sheep Station*

Eric Rolls, *A Million Wild Acres* [Australia]

W.G. Hoskins, *The Making of the English Landscape*

Barbara Novak, *Nature and Culture: American Landscape Painting, 1825-1975*

April 6

Politics

Required:

William Shutkin, *The Land That Could Be* [M]

Madhav Gadgil and Ramachandra Guha, *This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India* [P]

Electives:

Charles Wilkinson, *Crossing the Next Meridian: Land, Water, and the Future of the West*

Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism*

John Mackenzie, *Empire of Nature*

Marion Clawson, *The Federal Lands Revisited*

Peder Anka, *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945*

Jane Carruthers, *The Kruger National Park: A Social and Political History*

Douglas Weiner, *A Little Piece of Freedom* [USSR]

Charles Kay and Randy Simmons, eds., *Wilderness and Political*

Ecology: Aboriginal Influences and the Original State of Nature

Stephen Bocking, *Nature's Experts. Science, Politics, and the Environment*

Jane Carruthers, *The Kruger National Park: A Social and Political History*

John Oates, *Myth and Reality in the Rain Forest*

John Dryzek, *Environmental Discourses*

April 13

Environmental ethics

Required:

Bob Pepperman Taylor, *Our Limits Transgressed* [M]

Roderick Nash, *The Rights of Nature* [P]

Electives:

Bryan Norton, *Toward Unity among Environmentalists*

Holmes Rolston, *Environmental Ethics*

Eric Katz, *Nature as Subject*

Eugene Hargrove, *Foundations of Environmental Ethics*

J. Baird Callicott, *Beyond the Land Ethic*

Gary Varner, *In Nature's Interests?*

Paul Taylor, *Respect for Nature*
Ben Minteer, *The Landscape of Reform*
Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 4th ed.
Mark Sagoff, *The Economy of the Earth*, 2nd ed.
Christopher Stone, *Earth and Other Ethics*

April 20

Cities

Required:

Tony Hiss, *The Experience of Place* [M]
Mike Davis, *Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster* [P]

Electives:

Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside*
Dolores Hayden, *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000*
Peter Hoffer, *Seven Fires*
David Stradling, *Smokestacks and Progressives: Environmentalists, Engineers, and Air Quality in America, 1881-1951*
William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*
Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*
Lewis Mumford, *The City in History*
Mark Luccarelli, *Lewis Mumford and the Ecological Region*

April 27

Conservation and Control

Required:

James Scott, *Seeing Like a State* [M]
John McPhee, *The Control of Nature* [P]

Electives:

Michael Lewis, *Inventing Global Ecology: Tracking the Biodiversity Ideal in India, 1945-1997*
E.O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*
Timothy Farabee, *Saving Nature's Legacy. Origins of the Idea of Biological Diversity*
A.O. Lovejoy, *The Great Chain of Being*
Susan Schrepfer, *The Fight to Save the Redwoods*
John Nielsen, *Condor. To the Brink and Back*
David Takacs, *The Idea of Biodiversity*
John Terborgh, *Requiem for Nature*
Michael Williams, *Deforesting the Earth*
Paul Josephson, *Resources Under Regimes: Technology, Environment, and the State*

May 4

Student roundtable