

History 6460, Graduate Seminar in Environmental History
Fall 2006, History Department Conference Room, Thursday 4:30 – 7:00
Conte (7-1303), cconte@cc.usu.edu
Office Hours by Appointment

This course surveys some of the literature from a rapidly growing historical field concerned primarily with the changing relationship between humanity and its environment. That relationship is extraordinarily complex and therefore environmental historians have examined a number of diverse topics, such as the history of conservation, transformations in landscapes, thematic studies of fire and water, and urban environments and industrial sinks, among others. We will devote eight meetings to a discussion of the selected readings in some of these areas and then spend the balance of the seminar discussing your own research.

Weekly Discussion

Each week one student will be in charge of setting the discussion agenda. This entails a short presentation in which the discussion leader identifies the central themes brought out by the common readings and then proposes a series of questions for the class to consider. As a help to the discussion leader, students will be required to email the instructor and the discussion leader two or three questions by noon on the day of our seminar meeting. I expect full participation by all seminar members. This presentation and your general participation in the evening's discussion will constitute 30% of the final grade.

Book Reviews

During the course of the semester, you will choose two books from the works designated for review (see the lists that follow each section). Each review will make up 10% of the final grade. Reviews should contain no more than 750 words. 20%

Research Project

Each student will complete a research project based upon his or her individual interest. The project can be based on primary materials or represent a synthesis of the existing literature. I expect you to meet with me frequently to discuss the progress of your project. Projects should contain 20 pages of text, plus a bibliography. 50%

Journal Access

The last 2 years of the journal *Environmental History* is available through USU's electronic journal site. *Environment and History* is available in hard copy at the library. All articles are available through the library's electronic reserve site.

August 31

Introductions and Syllabus

Key Questions: What is Environmental History?
 Who historiographical traditions led to EH?
 What are the field's central thematic concerns?
 What questions motivate environmental historians?
 Is EH truly interdisciplinary?
 How does one "do" EH?

Part I: Definitions, Theories and Approaches

September 7

Approaches.

Pawson, Eric and Stephen Dovers. "Environmental History and the Challenges of Interdisciplinarity: An Antipodean Perspective." *Environment and History* 9 (2003): 53-75. ER6460

Peck, Gunther. "The Nature of Labor: Fault Lines and Common Ground in Environmental and Labor History." *Environmental History* 11.2 (2006): 212-38.

Sutter, Paul. "What Can U.S. Environmental Historians Learn from Non-U.S. Environmental Historiography?" *Environmental History* 8 (2003): 109-129. ER6460

Russell, Edmund. "Evolutionary History: Prospectus for a New Field." *Environmental History* 8 (2003), 204 – 228. ER 3950

Basso, Kenneth. "Quoting the Ancestors." In *Wisdom Sits in Places*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996. ER6460

Schatzki, Theodore R. "Nature and Technology in History." *History and Theory* 42 (2003): 82-93.

Beinart, William and Karen Middleton. "Plant Transfers in Historical Perspective: A Review Article." *Environment and History* 10 (2004): 3-29. ER6460

For Review:

Environment and History Volume 10.4 (2004). Tenth Anniversary Issue. Library.

Russell, Emily. *People and the Land through Time: Linking Ecology and History*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997. Library GF41 .R87 1997

History and Theory Theme Issue 42 “Environment and History.”

Part II: Places

September 14

Mountains/Forests

Hall, Marcus. “Repairing Mountains: Restoration, Ecology, and Wilderness in Twentieth-Century Utah.” *Environmental History* 6 (2001): 584-610. ER6460

Conte, C.A. “The Forest Becomes Desert: Forest Use and Environmental Change in Tanzania’s West Usambara Mountains.” *Land Degradation and Development* 10 (1999), 291-309. ER 3950

Brock, Emily. “The Challenge of Reforestation: Ecological Experiments in the Douglas Fir Forest, 1920-1940.” *Environmental History* 9.1 (2004), 57 – 79. ER6460

Saikku, Mikko. “‘Home in the Big Forest’: Decline of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker and Its Habitat in the United States.” In *Encountering the Past in Nature: Essays in Environmental History*. Edited by Timo Myllyntaus and Mikko Saikku. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, second revised edition, 2001. ER6460.

Judd, Richard W. “A ‘Wonderful Order and Balance’: Natural History and the Beginnings of Forest Conservation in America, 1730-1830.” *Environmental History* 11 (2006): 8-36.

Orland, Barbara. “Alpine Milk: Dairy Farming as a Pre-Modern Strategy of Land Use.” *Environment and History* 10.3 (2004), 327-64. ER6460

For Review:

Langston, Nancy. *Forest Dreams, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995. Library

Fairhead, James and Melissa Leach. *Misreading the African Landscape: Society and Ecology in a Forest-Savanna Mosaic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Library

Tucker, Richard P. *Insatiable Appetite: the United States and the Ecological Degradation of the Tropical World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

Conte, Christopher A. *Highland Sanctuary: Environmental History in Tanzania's Usambara Mountain*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2004.

Sponsel, Leslie E., Thomas N. Headland, and Robert C. Bailey, eds. *Tropical Deforestation: The Human Dimension*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.

deBuys, William. *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1985.

Griffiths, Tom. *Forests of Ash: An Environmental History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Williams, Michael. *Deforesting the Earth: From Prehistory to Global Crisis*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

September 21

Water

Szylvian, Kristin. "Transforming Lake Michigan into the 'World's Greatest Fishing Hole': The Environmental Politics of Michigan's Great Lakes Sport Fishing, 1965 – 1985." *Environmental History* 9.1 (2004), 102 – 127. ER 6460

Wilson, Robert. "Directing the Flow: Migratory Waterfowl, Scale and Mobility in Western North America." *Environmental History* 7 (2002), 247-266. ER 6460

Ward, Evan. "Geo-Environmental Disconnection and the Colorado River Delta: Technology, Culture, and the Political Ecology of Paradise." *Environment and History* 7 (2001), 219-46. ER 6460

Bankoff, Greg. Winds of Colonisation: The Meteorological Contours of Spain's Imperium in the Pacific 1521 – 1898." *Environment and History* 12 (2006): 65-88.

Weil, Benjamin. "The Rivers Come: Colonial Flood Control and Knowledge Systems in the Indus Basin, 1840s – 1930s." *Environment and History* 12 (2006): 3-30.

Josephson, Paul. "Pyramids of Concrete: Rivers, Dams, and the Ideological Roots of Brute Force Technology." In *Industrialized Nature: Brute Force Technology and the Transformation of the Natural World*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2002. ER 6460

For Review:

Fiege, Mark. *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999.

Cioc, Mark. *The Rhine: An Ecobiography, 1815 - 2000*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003.

White, Richard. *The Organic Machine*.

Worster, Donald. *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Char Miller, ed. *Fluid Arguments : Five Centuries of Western Water Conflict*. Tucson : University of Arizona Press, c2001.

Langston, Nancy. *Where Land & Water Meet : A Western Landscape Transformed*. Seattle : University of Washington Press, 2003.

Vileisis, Ann. *Discovering the Unknown Landscape: A History of America's Wetlands*. Washington D.C.: Island Press, 1997.

Buttenwieser, Ann L. *Manhattan Water-Bound: Planning and Developing Manhattan's Waterfront from the Seventeenth Century to the Present*. New York, 1987.

September 28

Arid and Semi-Arid Environments

Flores, Dan. "Where All the Pretty Horses Have Gone." In *Horizontal Yellow: Nature and History in the Near Southwest*. University of New Mexico Press, 1999. ER 6460

Cronon, William. "The Dustbowl: A Place for Stories." Nature, History and Narrative." *The Journal of American History* 78.4 (1992): 1347 - 76. ER 6460

Broch-Due, Vigdis. "A Proper Cultivation of Peoples: The Colonial Reconfiguration of Pastoral Tribes and Places in Kenya." In *Producing Nature and Poverty in Africa*. Edited by Vigdis Broch-Due and Richare A. Schroeder. Stockholm, Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, 2000. ER 6460

Sutton, John E.G. "The Success and Abandonment of an Integrated Irrigation System in an Arid Part of the Rift Valley, c 15th to 17th Centuries." In Mats Widgren and John E.G. Sutton eds. *Islands of Intensive Agriculture in Eastern Africa*. Nairobi: British Institute of Eastern Africa, 2004. ER 6460

Fish, Suzanne K. "Hohokam Impacts on Sonoran Desert Environment." In *Imperfect Balance: Landscape Transformations in the Precolumbian Americas*. Edited by David L. Lentz. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. ER 6460

For Review:

Kreike, Emmanuel. *Re-Creating Eden: Land Use, Environment, and Society in Southern Angola and Northern Namibia*. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Heinemann Books, 2004. On Order.

Lookingbill, Brad D. *Dust Bowl, USA: Depression America and the Ecological Imagination, 1929 – 1941*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2001. Library

Flores, Dan. *Horizontal Yellow: Nature and History in the Near Southwest*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999. Library

Webb, James L.A. *Desert Frontier: Ecological and Economic Change Along the Western Sahel, 1600 – 1850*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995. Library

Francaviglia, Richard. *Believing in Place: A Spiritual Geography of the Great Basin*. Reno and Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 2003. Library

Brockington, Dan. *Fortress Conservation: The Preservation of the Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania*. London: James Currey, 2002. Library

October 5 and 12 (No Class)

October 19 (Research Prospectus Due)

Industrial and Urban Environments

Melosi, Martin V. "The Place of the City in Environmental History." *Environmental History Review* (Spring 1993), pp. 1-23. ER6460

Zimring, Carl. "Dirty Work: How Hygiene and Xenophobia Marginalized the American Waste Trades, 1870- 1930." *Environmental History* 9.1 (2004), 80 – 101. ER6460

Colten, Craig E., "Chicago's Waste Lands: Refuse Disposal and Urban Growth, 1840-1990." *Journal of Historical Geography* 20 (1994): 124-142. ER6460

McCarthy, Tom. "'The Coming Wonder?': Foresight and Early Concerns about the Automobile." *Environmental History* 6 (2001): 46-74. ER6460

Colten, Craig E. "Reintroducing Nature to the City: Wetlands in New Orleans." *Environmental History* 7 (2002): 226-246. ER6460

Davis, Devra. "Where I Come From." In *When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2002. ER3950

For Review

Tarr, Joel A. *The Search for the Ultimate Sink: Urban Pollution in Historical Perspective*. Akron, University of Akron Press, 1996. Library

Tarr, Joel, ed. *Devastation and Renewal: An Environmental History of Pittsburgh and its Region*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003. Library

Rosen, Christine Meisner and Joel Tarr, eds. *The Environment and the City: A Special Issue of the Journal of Urban History* 20.3 (May 1994). Library

Davis, Devra. *When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2002. On order.

Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1962. Library

Melosi, Martin. *Effluent America: Cities, Industry, Energy and the Environment*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2001. Library

Josephson, Paul R. *Industrialized Nature: Brute Force Technology and the Transformation of the Natural World*. Washington D.C.: Island Press, 2002. Library.

Part III, Ideas

October 26

Wildernesses, Conservation, Parks, Law, and Ethics.

Cronon, William. "The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." with commentary. *Environmental History* 1 (1996): 7-28. ER6460

Reich, Justin. "Re-Creating Wilderness: Shaping Narratives and Landscapes in Shenandoah National Park." *Environmental History* 6 (2001): 95-117. ER6460

DeLuca, Kevin and Anne Demo. "Imagining Nature and Erasing Class and Race: Carleton Watkins, John Muir and the Construction of Wilderness." *Environmental History* 6 (2001): 541-560. ER6460

Abbey, Edward. "Polemic: Industrial Tourism and the National Parks." In *Desert Solitaire*. ER6460

Carruthers, Jane. "Past and Future Landscape Ideology: The Kalahari Gemsbok National Park." In *Social History and African Environments*. Edited by William Beinart and Joann McGregor. Oxford: James Currey, 2003. ER6460

Leopold, Aldo. Part IV of *A Sand County Almanac with Essays on Conservation from Round River*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1966. ER6460 (“The Upshot”)

For Review:

Sellars, Richard West. *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997. Library

Oelschlaeger, Max. *The Idea of Wilderness: From Prehistory to the Age of Ecology*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991. Library

Nash, Roderick. *Wilderness and the American Mind*. Library.

November 2 and November 9

Individual Meetings with Conte

Part IV, Research

November 16, 30, and Dec. 7, Draft Presentations