

## HIST 539: World Environmental History Reading Seminar

Spring 2020  
Wednesdays, 3-5:50pm  
Clark C-362

Dr. Andrea Duffy

[Andrea.Duffy@colostate.edu](mailto:Andrea.Duffy@colostate.edu)

970-491-3295

Office: Clark A-075

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm, and by appointment M-F

### General Information

The field of environmental history examines human interactions with their environment. Its subjects range from nature, environmentalism and the built environment, to climate change and natural resources. World environmental history applies a global perspective to such subjects, highlighting patterns and connections across space and time. Like environmental history in general, it complements other fields of history by providing critical insight into historical developments.

This course introduces advanced students of history to the methods, sources, narratives, and content of world environmental history. Assigned readings offer a thematic approach to the field, presenting seminal works and key themes within the field. At the same time, the course familiarizes students with historiography and the practice of history through discussion, assignments, and activities. It aims to prepare students for further study as well as research, writing, and oral communication in applied/professional contexts.

### Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to...

- Demonstrate familiarity with the principle methods, themes, and content of world environmental history;
- Explain the value of an environmental lens in understanding and investigating historical subjects;
- Critically evaluate world environmental history scholarship; and
- Practice history research and scholarship.

### Readings

The following books are required (all are available for purchase in the University bookstore):

1. John R. McNeill and Peter Engelke, *The Great Acceleration* (Harvard, 2016)
2. Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment* (Cambridge, 2008)
3. James Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed* (Yale, 2010)
4. Warren Dean, *With Broadax and Firebrand* (University of California, 1995), E-Book available
5. Virginia Hope Anderson, *Creatures of Empire* (Oxford, 2006)
6. Andrea Duffy, *Nomad's Land* (University of Nebraska, 2019)

### Assignments and Expectations

This course includes the following assignments, which will be explained in greater detail in class and on Canvas. Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments should be double spaced, 12pt Times, 1in margins). Citations should use CMS / MLA format.

1. Academic Book Review

2. Source Analyses (6)
3. Discussion Leader & Reading Group Presentation
4. Research Paper Proposal
5. Final Research Paper
6. Research Presentation

**Grading**

Participation: 15%

Book Review: 10%

Source Analyses: 15% total

Discussion Leader & Reading Group Presentation: 15%

Research Paper Preliminary Components: 10%

Final Research Paper: 25%

Research Presentation: 10%

**Grading Scale:** 98-100=A+, 93-97=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 70-76=C, 60-69=D, <60=F

**Academic Integrity**

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with CSU's policy on Academic Integrity:

<http://www.ssw.chhs.colostate.edu/field/files/Field%20Manuals/Policies/CSU%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Dishonesty.pdf>. As outlined in this policy, students found responsible for acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may receive an automatic F in the course. In any case of academic dishonesty, the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services will be notified. Note that avoiding plagiarism requires citing your sources fully and correctly. Information on proper citation is available on the CSU Writing Center website: <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/guide.cfm?guideid=9>.

### Class Schedule

(may be subject to change)

#### Part I: Foundations and Perspectives

##### Week 1: January 22

No assigned readings

##### Week 2: January 29

Readings:

1. Cronon, William. "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative." *Journal of American History* 78, no. 4 (March 1, 1992): 1347–76.
2. Sutter, Paul S. "The World with Us: The State of American Environmental History." *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 94–119.
3. Donald Hughes, "Chapter 1: Defining Environmental History," in *What is Environmental History?* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2016).
4. Start reading Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment* (Cambridge, 2008)

##### Week 3: February 5

Source Analysis 1 due

Reading: Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment* (Cambridge, 2008)

#### Part II: Environment and Power

##### Week 4: February 12

Research Proposal due

Readings:

1. Arun Agrawal, "Environmentality," *Current Anthropology* 45, no. 2 (2005): 161-190.
2. Mark Stoll, "The Other Scientific Revolution: Calvinist Scientists and the Origins of Ecology," in *After the Death of Nature*, pp. 161-177, edited by Kenneth Worthy, Elizabeth Allison, and Whitney A. Bauman (Routledge, 2019).
3. Raf de Bont, "'Primitives' and Protected Areas: International Conservation and the 'Naturalization' of Indigenous People, ca. 1910-1975," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 76, no. 2 (2015): 215–36.
4. Tiya Miles, "Black Bodies, Green Spaces," *The New York Times*, June 15, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/15/opinion/sunday/black-bodies-green-spaces.html>.

##### Week 5: February 19

Source Analysis 2 due

Reading: Virginia Hope Anderson, *Creatures of Empire* (Oxford, 2006)

##### Week 6: February 26

Source Analysis 3 due

Andrea Duffy, *Nomad's Land* (University of Nebraska, 2019)

##### Week 7: March 4

Source Analysis 4 due

Reading: James Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed* (Yale, 2010)

Week 8: March 11**Source Analysis 5 due**

Reading: Warren Dean, *With Broadax and Firebrand* (University of California, 1995).

**Spring Break, March 14-22**Week 9: March 25**Book Review due**

*No assigned reading*

Part III: Environmental FuturesWeek 10: April 1**Source Analysis 6 due**

Reading: John R. McNeill and Peter Engelke, *The Great Acceleration* (Cambridge, 2016)

Week 11: April 8**Final Paper Draft due**

Readings:

1. Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses," *Critical Inquiry* 35, no. 2 (2009): 197–222.
2. John McNeill, "Can History Help Us with Global Warming?" *Climatic Cataclysm: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Climate Change*, edited by Kurt M. Campbell (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 2008).
3. Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, "Chapter 6: The Denial of Global Warming," in *Merchants of Doubt* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2010), pp. 169-215.

Week 12: April 15**Final Paper Peer Review due**

Environmental History in Review

Readings:

1. Worster, Donald. "Nature and the Disorder of History." *Environmental History Review* 18, no. 2 (July 1, 1994): 1–15.
2. Review Paul Sutter, "The World with Us: The State of American Environmental History" (see Week 2).
3. David Iglar, "On Vital Areas, Categories, and New Opportunities," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 120–23.
4. Christof Mauch, "Which World Is with Us? A Tocquevillian View on American Environmental History," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 124–27.
5. Gregg Mitman, "Living in a Material World," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 128–30.
6. Linda Nash, "Furthering the Environmental Turn," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 131–35.
7. Helen M. Rozwadowski, "The Promise of Ocean History for Environmental History," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 136–39.
8. Bron Taylor, "It's Not All about Us': Reflections on the State of American Environmental History," *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 140–44.
9. Paul S. Sutter, "Nature Is History." *Journal of American History* 100, no. 1 (June 1, 2013): 145–48.

Week 13: April 22

Final Paper due April 26, 11:59pm

Research Presentations

Week 14: April 29

Research Presentations

Week 15: May 6

Research Presentations