

HIST 4xx/818
HISTORY AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Professor Colin A.M. Duncan (Queen's History & McGill School of Environment)
Mondays mid-day – FW 2004/2005

This seminar course is intended for senior students interested in a comprehensive introduction to the sub-fields of the relatively new sub-discipline known as "environmental history". It starts with the history of life on this planet prior to the evolution of humans and ends with a glance at the recent history of environmentalism. In addition to always considering history from a 'deep time' perspective the course takes an explicitly global approach. The course is not a comprehensive world history survey but there is at least one class on the history of every continent. The literature in this sub-discipline is richest for U.S. history and extremely thin for Canadian. So deep in second term students will conduct together a systematic exploration of how the history of Northern North America could be made richer.

In addition to some classic articles and a sampling of primary sources we will examine the following monographs:

GAIA (Lovelock)	THE MIDDLE GROUND (White)
HYPERSEA (McMenamin)	ECOLOGICAL IMPERIALISM (Crosby)
AFTER THE ICE AGE (Pielou)	GREEN IMPERIALISM (Grove)
ON BECOMING HUMAN (Tanner)	WITH BROADAXE AND FIREBRAND (Dean)
A NATURAL HISTORY OF DOMESTICATED MAMMALS (Clutton-Brock)	THE WAY TO THE WEST (West)
SOIL AND CIVILIZATION (Hyams)	FIRE IN AMERICA (Pyne)
THE ICE (Pyne)	NATURE'S METROPOLIS (Cronon)
THE FUTURE EATERS (Flannery)	RIVERS OF EMPIRE (Worster)
THE MEDITERRANEAN (Braudel)	GARBAGE IN THE CITIES (Melosi)
THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE (Rackham)	ENERGY AND THE MAKING OF MODERN CALIFORNIA (Williams)
AGRICULTURAL INVOLUTION (Geertz)	MUSKOX LAND (Dick)
GAMES AGAINST NATURE (Harms)	SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN (McNeill)

If you are interested in taking this course, please email Kelly Smith [smithkj@post.queensu.ca]
to have your name added to the course list.

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