History 6460  
Spring 2015  
Thursday 4:30-7:00  
History Seminar Room

**Course Goal**

Quality

**Course Layout**

Six Common Reading Sessions – We will devote these sessions to a discussion of the common readings listed on the schedule below. Each week one (or two) students will introduce the readings and provide the seminar with a discussion agenda. The seminar will then refine or revise the agenda before we proceed with the session. Individual students will also present book reviews on related thematic topics during each session. Each student is responsible for presenting one book review during the semester.

Writing Workshops – During these three sessions, we will critique written work. We will devote the first session to a discussion of the research prospectuses, and the second to synthetic essays that tie together the readings in some fashion.

Research Project – Each student will conduct a research project built around their own area of interest. The papers should be 10 to 15 pages long and present a historical perspective on an issues closely related to one of the course themes, or your own research agenda. Environmental history is particularly suited to multi-disciplinary scrutiny so students from fields other than history may comfortably work from foundations of science, social science or the humanities so long as their papers focus on process and change over time.

**Evaluation**

40% - Participation: attendance, preparation, articulation, critique.

30% - Writing Assignments: book review; research prospectus; literature synthesis.

30% - Research Essay – depth and quality of research; essay design; style.

**Meeting and Reading Schedule:**

January 8, Introductions

January 15, Environmental History as a Field of Study.
Readings:


For review:


**January 22, Approaches/Methods/Evidence**

Readings:


For Review:


Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac*.


**January 29, Conservation**


For Review:


**February 5, Writing workshop/critique – Paper Prospectuses**

**February 12, Natural Science and History**


For Review:

TBD

**February 19, Climate**


*Osiris* 26 (2011) – Issue devoted to climate and climate change. Read “Introduction and choose an article from the volume.
For Review:

*Osiris*, volume 26. Special Issue on Climate.

*Environmental History*, volume 19.2. “Climate Change and Environmental History Forum.”

**February 26th, Empire**


For Review:

TBD

**March 5, Writing Workshop – Synthetic Essays.**

**March 12, Spring Break**

**March 19, Rosenband Symposium**

**March 26, Individual Meetings**

**April 2, Research Presentations**
April 9, Research Presentations

April 16, Research Presentations

April 23, Dinner

Readings in Reserve

Landscape


For Review:

D'Arcy, Robert. – Oceania’s Environmental History.