

# HIST 384 An Environmental History of the United States

Autumn 2010

Monday, Wednesday 3:00-4:15

Instructor: Dr. David Dzurec david.dzurec@scranton.edu

Office hours: 11:00-12:00 Monday and Wednesday

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Assuming a basic knowledge of U.S. History, the goal of this course is to expose students to the dialogue between humanity and nature in which cultural and environmental systems powerfully interact, shaping and influencing each other, without either side wholly determining the outcome. Topics that will be examined include Native American Ecology, the impact of European Colonization, the rise of the Market Economy, Westward Expansion, the rise of Twentieth-Century Industry, and the emergence of Ecology, and Globalization. The success of these objectives will be evaluated based on student essays, reading quizzes, discussion, and a final research paper.

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## REQUIRED READINGS:

Merchant *Major Problems in American Environmental History*

Fagan *The Little Ice Age*

Sinclair *The Jungle*

Carson *Silent Spring*

Friedman *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*

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## GRADING:

Papers	20%	<b>Oct 5</b>
	20%	<b>Nov 2</b>
	30%	<b>Finals Week</b>
Reading Quizzes	15%	
Attendance/Discussion	10%	

## A Note on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is simply taking someone else's words and ideas and pretending they are your own. This is a serious academic offense and will not be taken lightly in this course. Any student who plagiarizes will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

## Special Needs and Accommodations:

In order to receive appropriate accommodations, students with disabilities must register with the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence and provide relevant documentation. Students should contact Mary Ellen Pichiarello (Extension 4039) or Jim Muniz (Extension 4218) to schedule an appointment.

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## ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences with no penalty. If you know that you are going to be unable to attend class please meet with me before your absence. Your attendance and participation comprises 10% of your final grade. For each class beyond the "free 2" that you miss you will lose 2 points on your final grade. If you miss 7 classes the highest possible grade which you can receive in this class is a 90%.

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**SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS:**

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**Week 1:**

Aug 24 **Introduction**

Aug 26 **What is Environmental History** [Historiography]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 1

**Week 2: Native American Ecology and European Contact**

Aug 31 **Beringia** [Human Settlement in North America]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 2

Sept 2 **The Columbian Exchange** [Native-European Contact]

**Readings:**

Crosby "The Columbian Exchange" on Angel

**Week 3: The Impact of Colonization**

Sept 7 [NO CLASS]

Sept 9 **New England Forests** [The North]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 3

**Week 4: The Impact of Colonization**

Sept 14 **Tobacco and Rice in the Colonial South** [The South]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 4

Sept 16 **A Revolutionary Epidemic** [Revolution and the Environment]

**Week 5: What is an American Environment?**

Sept 21 **Farms and Cities** [Jefferson and Hamilton]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 5

Sept 23 **An Independent America** [Post-Revolutionary Landscape]

**Week 6: A Market Revolution**

Sept 28 **American Nature v. American Market Part I** [The Market Revolution]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 6

Sep 30 **American Nature v. American Market Part II**

**Week 7: King Cotton and the Civil War**

Oct 5 [PAPER 1 DUE]

**The Plantation** [Pre-Civil War Cotton]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 7

Oct 7 **Sharecropping** [Post-Civil War Cotton]

**Week 8: Mining the Frontier**

Oct 12 [NO CLASS]

Oct 14 **There's Gold in Those Hills** [The Extraction Economy]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 8

**Week 9: Farming the Frontier**

Oct 19 **The Homestead Act** [The Move to the Plains]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 9

Oct 21 **The Buffalo** [The Plains Peoples]

**Week 10: Conservation at the Turn of the Century**

Oct 26 **TR** [Roosevelt and Progressive Ideals]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 10

Oct 28 **The Debate over Conservation** [The Politics of Conservation]

**Week 11: Wilderness**

Nov 2 [PAPER 2 DUE]

**Audubon Women** [The Preservation of Wilderness]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 11

Nov 4 **Luther Standing Bear** [Native Americans and Wilderness]

**Week 12: Industry and the Environment**

Nov 9 **Industrial America** [The Rise of Industry]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 12

Nov 11 **The Jungle** [Government Regulation]

**Readings:**

Sinclair *The Jungle*

**Week 13: Twentieth-Century Ecology**

Nov 16 **Human Ecology** [Understanding Ecology]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 13

Nov 18 **Silent Spring** [A New Environmental Movement]

**Readings:**

Carson *Silent Spring*

**Week 14: The Issue of Resources**

Nov 23 **The Hoover Dam** [Water and Energy]

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 14

Nov 25 [NO CLASS]

**Week 15: Globalization**

Nov 30 **The World is Flat . . .**

**Readings:**

*Major Problems* Chapter 15

Friedman *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*

Dec 2 **Hot and Crowded**

**Week 16:**

Dec 7 Review