

HIST 359 – LEC B1 – WINTER 2010 *3 (3-0-0)

“The Land God Gave to Cain”: Canadian Environmental History

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:20 pm

Location: Tory B-38

Dr. L. Piper

Office hours: Wednesday 1-2pm or by appointment

Office: 2-37 Tory

Phone: 780-492-0855

email: liza.piper@ualberta.ca

Email policy: I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss questions you have relating to the course. I will respond to email questions only when the answer cannot be found in the course syllabus or on the course website. I will not grant extensions over email.

Course website: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/historyandclassics/moodle/> from this main page you navigate to the course website (HIST 359 Sec B1)

Enrolment key: cain

Introduction

Conventional histories exclusively involve human actors. Environmental history brings the natural environment onto a shared stage where predictable political and historical boundaries break down. Through lectures and discussions, students will learn about the major episodes in global environmental history. We will examine the ecological consequences of the arrival of Europeans in the New World, the role of modern science in changing how people understood and related to the rest of nature, and the rise of industrial production and its impact upon the natural world. Canada's regional ecological diversity, northern climate, resource riches, and extensive coastline have given it a prominent and unique place in global environmental history. This course will consider this unique place by examining international themes as they played out in Canadian environments and in turn how Canada's national environmental history has had global repercussions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students will

- 1) understand environmental history as a field of study
- 2) understand the significance of environment and environmental change to Canadian history
- 3) know the role of local, national and global environments in shaping key episodes in Canadian history

Required Readings

(both texts are available in the University Bookstore and on reserve in Rutherford Library)

Alan MacEachern and William J. Turkel, eds. *Method & Meaning in Canadian Environmental History* (Toronto: Nelson Education, 2009) ~ \$70

Tina Loo, *States of Nature: Conserving Canada's Wildlife in the Twentieth Century* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006) ~ \$30

Evaluation

In-class Assignment

Date due: January 28, 2010

Value: 15 %

Requirements: This will be an in-class written assignment that analyses a primary source in reference to lecture discussions and readings. The primary source will be distributed to students in advance, on January 19th.

Book Review

Date due: February 11, 2010

Value: 15 %

Requirements: Each student will compose a 750 word (approximately 3 pages double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, standard margins) review of Tina Loo's *States of Nature: Conserving Canada's Wildlife in the Twentieth Century* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006). The review should critically examine the strengths and weaknesses of the text and explain its significance to Canadian and environmental history.

Designing a Field Trip

Date due: March 9, 2010

Value: 15 %

Requirements: Each student is expected to design a regional field trip (for Alberta, or parts of other provinces within reasonable distance of Edmonton) that illuminates themes

in environmental history as discussed in class. Further details about this assignment are provided on a separate handout.

Major Essay

Date due: March 25, 2010

Value: 40 %

Requirements: Details about this assignment are provided on a separate handout.

Class Participation

Scheduled discussions: Jan. 19, Feb 4, Mar. 16, Apr. 1

Value: 15 %

Class participation will be evaluated based upon the quality of active contributions in the scheduled class discussions as well as participation in discussions or class activities throughout the semester.

There is no final examination in this course.

Grading

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value
Excellent	A+	4
	A	4
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3
	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	C+	2.3
	C	2
	C-	1.7
Poor	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	D	1
Failure	F	0

Late / missed assignments and extensions

With the exception of the in-class assignment which will be submitted at the end of class, all other assignments are due **at the beginning of class** on the date indicated.

Late assignments will be docked a full letter grade (an A will drop to a B, a B- to a C- and so forth) for the first day, and a further partial letter grade (B+ drops to a B) for each week after that.

Example:

An assignment receives an A when submitted on the due date February 11th.

It arrives one day late, on February 12th and receives a B.

It arrives between February 13th and February 17th and receives a B-.

It arrives a week or more late, between February 18th and February 24th and receives a C+, and so forth.

I am willing to grant extensions provided either of the following conditions is met:

- 1) The extension is requested by the student in person (i.e. not over email; not in a phone message) prior to the due date and there is a very good reason for why the extension is needed.
- 2) A doctor's note or other appropriate documentation is provided for an extension requested on or after the date the assignment is due.

Readings for Discussion Classes:

Discussion 1, Jan. 19

Thinking about Nature in History

Required Readings:

- Section I "Approaching Environmental History"
- Section III "Manipulating Scale"

Discussion 2, Feb. 4

Landscapes of Exploitation

Required Readings:

- Section II "Reading Landscapes"
- Section IV "Learning by Looking"

Discussion 3, Mar. 16

Cities and Nations

Required Readings:

- Section V "Finding the Nation in Nature"
- Section VI "Reading Cities"

Discussion 4, Apr. 1

Shaping Nature and Contesting Expertise

Required Readings:

- Section VII "Thinking Spatially"
- Section VIII "Negotiating Expertise"

University Policies

The policy regarding course outlines can be found in ' 23.4(2) of the University Calendar. Regarding access to past or representative evaluative course material (GFC 23.4): As this course does not include a final exam this policy is Not Applicable.

Academic Integrity

"The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are

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particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/governance/StudentAppealsRegulations.cfm>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

Students are advised that the Code of Student Behaviour is published in the University *Calendar* and should be reviewed since ignorance is not acceptable as a defence in cases of academic offences.

I have attached a separate sheet on Academic Integrity for your reference.

Some Suggestions for Research Topics

These are just suggestions to help you think about possible research topics. Please feel free to select a topic from the list or to design your own. Either way, you will have to devise a clear argument and time/place frame for your study.

European Expansion and Ecological Imperialism

Contact: Perceiving a New Continent

Aboriginal Relationships to the Environment

Colonizing the Land

Surveying Nature

The Commission of Conservation

The Destruction of the Buffalo

Palliser’s Triangle and Perceptions of the West

The Nature of the Wheat Economy

The Idea of Wilderness

Northern Environments and Peoples

Parks and People

Sewage and Garbage

Conservation Diplomacy

War and Nature

Geographies of Inequality: Environmental Justice

The Nature of the City

Fire: Forests, Grasslands, and Settlements

The Rise of Modern Environmentalism

Natural Disasters

Transportation, Region, and Nation

Resource Exploitation and Communities

Online Research & Reference Sites

I encourage the use of online materials for research and reference purposes, however, I expect that students exercise critical judgement when using materials online. Here are some suggested websites. Please note that if you do use and reference websites not listed here, there is a 99% chance that I will look up the URL of the website for myself and if I don't find it suitable, you will lose marks on the assignment.

I do welcome suggestions for new websites, so if you find a site that you found valuable in this course please let me know so I can take a look.

Early Canadiana Online

<http://www.canadiana.org/>

(Access this via the Library Catalogue or from a campus computer)

Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

John Davidson: The Legacy of a Canadian Botanist

<http://www.botanyjohn.org/>

NiCHE: Network in Canadian History and Environment

<http://niche.uwo.ca/>

The Canadian Encyclopedia

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/>

Dictionary of Canadian Biography

<http://www.biographi.ca/>

Oxford English Dictionary

<http://dictionary.oed.com/>

(Access this via the Library Catalogue or from a campus computer)

Chicago Manual of Style

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/>

(Access this via the Library Catalogue or from a campus computer)

Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project

<http://www.historicalatlas.ca/website/hacolp/>

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>

Lecture and Discussion Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Discussion Topic	Other	Readings
05-Jan	Introduction			
07-Jan	First Wave: Glaciation and the Peopling of the Americas			
12-Jan	Second Wave: Consequences of European Expansion			
14-Jan	The Great Catch: Fisheries			
19-Jan		1: Thinking about Nature in History		Wynn, Worster, Dick, Piper, Sandwell
21-Jan			Library Session	
26-Jan	The Global Hunt: Furs			
28-Jan			In-class assignment	
02-Feb	Early Settlement: Agriculture and Forestry			
04-Feb		2: Landscapes of Exploitation		Pope, Podruchny, Coates, Mortimer-Sandilands
09-Feb	Pressing Inland: Transportation and the North West			
11-Feb	Making Native Space		Book review due	
			Reading Week	
23-Feb	Conservation and the Creation of Parks			
25-Feb	Finding Wilderness			
02-Mar			Film: <i>Grizzly Man</i>	
04-Mar	From Country to City			
09-Mar	Disease and Health		Field Trip assignment due	
11-Mar		No Class - Work on your papers!		
16-Mar		3: Cities and Nations		Varty, MacEachern, Dagenais, Dean
18-Mar	20th c. Resource Economies			
23-Mar	Disasters and Hazards			
25-Mar	Changing Energy Regimes		Final research paper due	
30-Mar	Environmental Policy and Law			
01-Apr		4: Shaping Nature and Contesting Expertise		Evenden, Castonguay & Saint-Laurent, Bocking, Turkel
06-Apr	The Age of Ecology			
08-Apr	Review Class and Conclusions			