

Dr. Freund
Development and the Environment in Comparative Perspective
3 credits
Spring 2009
M, T, Th, 6th period
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In 1800, the United States was a committed agrarian nation, little interested in developing industrial centers like those already growing in Europe. In 1900, the United States was an economic power, well on its way towards becoming the greatest industrial nation the world had ever seen. By 2000, it had become clear that the rise might have been swift, but its costs were many. We achieved our successes by strip mining hills, warming the globe, clotting the sky, damming rivers, destroying ecosystems, extinguishing species, and ignoring the environmental needs of the politically disempowered. The vast majority of people on this planet live in countries far less developed than the United States. This class will think comparatively, looking at how growth led to choices that changed—sometimes forever—the environment here and abroad, and considering how America's past can help us better consider the current state of affairs in lands far away.

Assignments

All students are responsible for completing all syllabus readings. I am setting up a wiki at wikispaces.com for this class. All students must get access to that website; I will be using it to get you files and information. You will have a three-page paper due based on each of the three units and an end-of-the-semester assignment of six-eight pages. You will also complete a group project. You and four or five classmates will be in charge of running class for a day. That means you will collaborate on what reading to assign and how to deliver the class. Each student, **not the group as a whole**, will also have to submit a one-two-page typed paper explaining the thinking behind your reading selection and class along with a one-paragraph reflection.

All papers must have a title and page numbers; they must be double spaced, in Times New Roman with margins 1 inch on top, bottom, left, and right. All papers must be submitted as a hard copy and to turnitin.com (class ID: 2602108; password: environment) and must use proper footnotes or parenthetical citations. As for deadlines and extensions, you will have five days of grace period to distribute throughout the semester (**except for the last paper, which must come in on time**). You can hand in one paper five days late or all papers one or two days late. A word of advice: **conserve your days**; you never know when you will need them.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty should need no policy. It is simply wrong, and everyone in this room knows that. When academics borrow ideas or text, they give credit in citations. I have been shocked in the past by the creative ways students find to deceive their instructors (not that any of you all would do that). You may not pass work off as original that is not; you may not use another person's words without telling your reader; you may not "borrow" ideas without giving credit. This list of "you may nots" could grow long; if you are unsure of anything when it comes to plagiarism, please come and see me. "I didn't know" will not be an adequate defense in a matter as serious as this one.

Grading and Exams

You will have semi-regular, five-minute reading quizzes. As of now, you will not have a final exam; however, you can earn one. I reserve the right to give a final if it seems like you need a little extra incentive to do your reading. Your grade will be comprised of the following components:

- Reading quizzes: 7.5%
- Group project (and write-up): 12.5%
- Participation/attendance: 20%

- Short papers: 37.5%
- Longer paper: 22.5%

Schedule of classes (subject to change)

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| 2/3, 2/5 | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Cronon, "A Place for Stories: Nature, History and Narrative" Donald Worster, "Nature and the Disorder of History" |
| Unit 1: "The Advance of Civilization" | |
| 2/9, 2/10, 2/12 | Overview: From Prehistory to Markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theodore Steinberg, <i>Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History</i>, chapters 1-6 |
| 2/23, 2/24, 2/26 | Case Study: Environment, Animals, and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew C. Isenberg, <i>The Destruction of the Bison</i> |
| 3/2, 3/3, 3/5, 3/9, 3/10 Extra Class (Tentative date: 3/6) | Comparing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Reid, "Humans and the Forests in Pre-Colonial Southeast Asia" Tamara Giles-Vernick, "Rethinking Migration and Indigeneity in the Sanha River Basin of Equatorial Africa" Movie: <i>Darwin's Nightmare</i> Leonard Guelke and Robert Shell, "Landscape of Conquest: Frontier Water Alienation and Khoikhoi Strategies of Survival, 1652-1780" |
| 3/12, PAPER 1 DUE | |
| Unit 2: Rationalizing the Environment | |
| 3/12, 3/16, 3/17 | Overview: Industrializing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steinberg, <i>Down to Earth</i>, chapters 7-10 |
| 3/19, 3/23, 3/24 | Case Study: Controlling Water Possessing Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donald Worster, <i>Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West</i>, Introduction and chapters 4 and 5 |
| 3/26, 3/30 | Case Study: Urban Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin V. Melosi, <i>Garbage in the Cities: Refuse, Reform, and the Environment</i>, chapter 3 Angela Gugliotta, "Class, Gender, and Coal Smoke: Gender Ideology and Environmental Injustice in Pittsburgh, 1868-1914" |
| 3/31, 4/2, 4/6, 4/7 | Comparing China. Reconsidering: Modernity's Necessary Costs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sid Perkins, "A Dam Shame?" Audrey R. Topping, "Ecological Roulette: Damming the Yangtze" Le Heming, Paul Waley, and Phil Rees, "Reservoir Resettlement in China: Past Experiences and the Three Gorges Dam" James E. Nickum, "Is China Living on the Water Margin?" Elizabeth C. Economy, "The Great Leap Backward?" Ravi Rajan, "Imperial Environmentalism or Environmental Imperialism? European Forestry, Colonial Foresters and the Agendas of Forest Management in British India, 1800-1900" |
| 4/20, PAPER 2 DUE | |
| 4/20, 4/21, 4/23 | Comparing continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.A. McAllister, Resistance to Betterment in the Transkei: A Case Study from the Willowvale District" Kate Brown, "Gridded Lives: Why Kazakhstan and Montana are Nearly the Same" Jo Beall, Owen Crankshaw, and Susan Parnell, "Victims, Villains and Fixers: The Urban Environment and Johannesburg's Poor" |
| Unit 3: Reconsidering the Environment and its Use | |
| 4/27, 4/28/ 4/30 | Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steinberg, <i>Down to Earth</i>, chapters 11-16 |
| 5/4, 5/5, 5/7 | Case Study: Environmentalism and Environmental Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Pulido, <i>Environmentalism and Economic Justice: Two Chicano Struggles in the Southwest</i>, chapters 1, 4, and 5 |

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| 5/11 | Case Study: Consuming Culture, Consuming Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan G. Davis “Touch the Magic” • Hal Rothman, <i>Devil’s Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth-Century American West</i>, “Maui Redux” |
| 5/18, PAPER 3 DUE | |
| 5/12, 5/14 5/18, 5/19 | Comparing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terence Turner, "Neoliberal Ecopolitics and Indigenous Peoples: The Kayapo, the 'Rainforest Harvest,' and The Body Shop" • Candace Slater, “Amazonia as Edenic Narrative” • David Western and R. Michael Wright “The Background of Community Based Conservation” • Charles D. Kleymeyer, “Cultural Traditions and Community-Based Conservation” • Piers Vitebsky, “A Farewell to Ancestors? Deforestation and the Changing Spiritual Environment of the Sora” • Roderick P. Neumann, “Primitive Ideas: Protected Area Buffer Zones and the Politics of Land in Africa” • Charles Zerner, “Transforming Customary Law and Coastal Management Practices in the Laluku Islands, Indonesia, 1870-1992” |
| 5/21, 5/26, 2/28, 6/1, 6/2 | Student Presentations |
| 6/8 | Reconsidering Environmentalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.C. Ellis, “On the Search for a Root cause: Essentialist Tendencies in Environmental Discourse” |
| New final paper deadline: 6/10 | |