

HIST 360 – Sec A1 – Fall 2008 – Topics in Canadian History *3 (3-0-0)

“The Land God Gave to Cain”: Canada in Global Environmental History

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:20 pm

Location: CME 346

Dr. L. Piper

Office hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30 pm or by appointment

Office: 2-37 Tory

Phone: 492-0855

email: epiper@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 360 Sec A1)

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

This book is also available as an electronic resource via the library catalogue.

Evaluation

In-class Assignment

Date due: September 30

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 September 25.

Book Review

Date due: October 16

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: October 30

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: November 20

Value: 40 %

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

Class Participation

Scheduled discussions: Sept 18, Oct 7, Nov 6; Nov 27

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 Oct 16.

It arrives Oct 17 and receives a B.

It arrives between Oct 18 and Oct 22 and receives a B-.

It arrives between Oct 23 and Oct 29 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) 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.

Lecture and Discussion Schedule

- 1 – Sept 4 – Introduction to the Course (Wynn)
- 2 – Sept 9 – The First Wave: Glaciation and the Peopling of the Americas (Worster)
- 3 – Sept 11 – Library Session
- 4 – Sept 16 – The Second Wave: Ecological Consequences of European Expansion
- 5 – Sept 18 – *Discussion 1: Thinking about Nature in History*
- 6 – Sept 23 – Agriculture and Settlement, 1600-1900 (Coates, Sandwell)
- 7 – Sept 25 – The Great Catch: Fisheries (Pope)
- *8 – Sept 30 – In class assignment
- 9 – Oct 2 – The Global Hunt: Furs (Podruchny)
- 10 – Oct 7 – *Discussion 2: Landscapes of Exploitation*
- 11 – Oct 9 – Pressing Inland: Transportation & Prairie Settlement (Varty)
- 12 – Oct 14 – Making Native Space (Dick)
- *13 – Oct 16 – Conservation and the Creation of Parks (MacEachern)
- 14 – Oct 21 – Finding Wilderness (Mortimer-Sandilands)
- 15 – Oct 23 – Film: *Fast, Cheap, and Out of Control*
- 16 – Oct 28 – From Country to City (Dagenais, Dean)
- *17 – Oct 30 – Disease and Health as Environmental History
- 18 – Nov 4 – 20th century Resource Economies and Exploitation (Evenden)
- 19 – Nov 6 – *Discussion 3: Nation and Space*
- 20 – Nov 13 – Disasters and Hazards (Piper)
- 21 – Nov 18 – Changing Energy Regimes (Castonguay and Saint-Laurent)
- *22 – Nov 20 – Environmental Law and Regulation (Turkel)
- 23 – Nov 25 – The Age of Ecology (Bocking)
- 24 – Nov 27 – *Discussion 4: Science, Knowing Nature, and Contesting Expertise*
- 25 – Dec 2 – Review Class & Conclusions

Readings for Discussion Classes:

Discussion 1, Sept. 18

Thinking about Nature in History

Required Readings:

Section I “Approaching Environmental History”
Section III “Manipulating Scale”

Discussion 2, Oct. 7

Landscapes of Exploitation

Required Readings:

Section II “Reading Landscapes”
Section IV “Learning by Looking”

Discussion 3, Nov. 6

Nation and Space

Required Readings:

Section V “Finding the Nation in Nature”
Section VII “Thinking Spatially”

Discussion 4, Nov. 27

Knowing Nature and Contesting Expertise

Required Readings:

Section VI “Reading Cities”
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 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/>