

History of Medicine/History of Science/IES  
513/713

Environment and Health in Global Perspective  
Spring 2003  
11:00-12:15 TR, 399 Van Hise

Gregg Mitman

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Office Hours: 1415 MSC, T 12:30-1:30 pm; W 9:30-10:30 p.m.

Writing Fellows: Angela Minniti; Nonso Njokanma

**Course Description:**

This course explores the relationships between environment and health through historical, anthropological, and sociological perspectives that highlight 1) the role of illness in shaping changing perceptions of the environment and 2) the impact of environmental change in transforming medical, scientific, and lay understanding and experience of health and illness. How, for example, did the encounter of settler societies with new lands alter medical and popular conceptions of illness? In what ways did diseases contribute to historical patterns of settlement and conquest? How has the rise of emerging diseases shaped visions of the global environment? What historical role have issues of class, gender, and race played in the inequitable distribution of pollution and in activist involvement in combating environmental hazards of the city and workplace? And in what ways has living in toxic environments altered experiences of identity, health, and place? These are just a few of the themes touched upon by this course.

**Expectations:**

This course is based on a seminar-discussion format. Each one in class needs to assume the responsibility of an active participant and learner. Success in the class depends largely upon the time, energy, and commitment you invest. You will be required to arrive at class having read the material assigned for the day and prepared to engage in a thoughtful and constructive conversation that is respectful of others in the classroom and takes seriously the issues and themes presented in the readings.

If any problem arises, either academic or personal, that might jeopardize your performance in the course, you must try to inform me of the problem at the next available office hour, or by leaving a message with the Department of Medical History and Bioethics (262-1460).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I urge any student in this course with a disability to inform me as soon as possible, so that I may make any necessary accommodations to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. All such requests are confidential.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the UW policies on plagiarism and to assume responsibility for honesty in all course work.

**Requirements:**

Undergraduates:	Attendance/Class participation	25%
	Critical Response papers (2)	20%
	Film Review	10%
	Scorecard Assignment	10%
	Take-Home Exams	35%
	or	
	Research paper	
	or	
	Community Service Project	
Graduate Students:	Class/seminar participation	25%
	Book reviews (3)	30%
	Research Paper	45%

Readings: Two reading packets are available for purchase in the Department of History of Science, 7143 Social Science Building.

**Writing Fellows:**

We are fortunate to have two peer writing tutors, called Writing Fellows, working with us this semester. Writing Fellows are skilled undergraduate writers, who have been selected by the Undergraduate Writing Fellows Program and trained to offer constructive criticism in the drafting process. They work one-on-one with each student by reading drafts, offering detailed comments, and meeting individually with each student to discuss how drafts can be improved.

The Writing Fellows will work with you on two assignments: one critical response paper and the film review. In each case you will submit a draft of your paper to me on the assigned due date. I will then give them to the Fellow who will read and provide written comments. You will then meet with your Fellow to discuss the paper and strategies for the rewrite. These meetings are mandatory. You will then revise your paper and submit both the original draft and your revised version on the specified revision date. You should also include a cover sheet that briefly explains how you responded to your Writing Fellow's comments.

This is a wonderful opportunity. Having input from someone else before you submit your final draft will only improve the quality of your paper, and thus help your grade. While the Fellows have no special training in the content of the course, they are trained to help you develop a well-constructed and persuasive essay. We can all become better writers, and good writing means rewriting. Writing can also help clarify your own

understanding of a particular idea or argument. So, make the most out of this experience. It is a rare opportunity to get feedback from others who have such a sincere interest in improving our prose.

### **Class Schedule, Topics, and Readings**

1/21 *Introduction*

1/23 *Issues & Approaches*

David B. Morris, "The White Noise of Health," in Illness and Culture in the Postmodern Age (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), pp. 78-106.

Gregg Mitman, Michelle Murphy, and Christopher Sellers, "Introduction: A Cloud over History," in Osiris 19 (2004): .

### **Airs, Waters, and Places**

1/28 *The Legacy of Hippocrates*

G. E. R. Lloyd, ed., "Airs, Waters, and Places," in Hippocratic Writings (New York: Penguin Books, 1978), pp. 148-170.

L. J. Jordanova, "Earth Science and Environmental Medicine: the Synthesis of the late Enlightenment," in Images of the Earth: Essays in the History of the Environmental Sciences, edited by L. J. Jordanova & Roy S. Porter, BSHS Monographs, 1 (1979): 120-146.

1/30 *Acclimatization, Race, and Disease*

Mark Harrison, "'The Tender Frame of Man': Disease, Climate and Racial Difference in India and the West Indies, 1760-1860," Bulletin of the History of Medicine 70 (1996): 68-93.

James Lind, An Essay on Diseases Incidental to Europeans in Hot Climates, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (London: J. and J. Richardson, 1808). Pp. 170-173.

J. C. Nott, "Acclimation; or the Comparative Influence of Climate, Endemic, and Epidemic Diseases on the Races of Man," in Indigenous Races of the Earth (Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott & Co., 1857), pp. 353-368.

2/4 *Geographies of Health*

Conevery Bolton Valencius, "The Geography of Health and the Making of the American West: Arkansas and Missouri, 1800-1860," in Medical Geography in Historical Perspective, edited by Nicolaas Rupke (London: Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 2000), pp. 121-145.

Daniel Drake, A Systematic Treatise, Historical, Etiological, and Practical, on the Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America, as They Appear in the Caucasion, Africa, Indian, and Esquimaux Varieties of Its Populations. (Cincinnati: Winthrop B. Smith & Co., 1850), pp. 1-4, 327-332, 703-704, 709-727.

2/6 *Traveling for Health*

Sheila Rothman, "Come West and Live," in Living in the Shadow of Death: Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History (New York: Basic Books, 1994), pp. 132-147.

Gregg Mitman, "Hay Fever Holiday: Health, Leisure and Place in Gilded Age America," Bulletin of the History of Medicine (2003), 44 pp.

The Union Pacific Tourist Illustrated Sketches of the Principle Health and Pleasure Resorts of the Great West and Northwest ... (Union Pacific Railway, 1886), pp. 7-10, 56-61, 69-71.

**Ecology and Infection**

2/11 *Epidemiology, Ecology, and Colonialism*

Michael Worboys, "Germs, Malaria, and the Invention of Mansonian Tropical Medicine: From 'Disease in the Tropics' to 'Tropical Diseases,'" in Warm Climates and Western Medicine: The Emergence of Tropical Medicine, 1500-1900, edited by David Arnold (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1996), pp. 181-207.

Helen Tilley, "Ecologies of Complexity: Tropical Environments, African Trypanosomiasis, and the Science of Disease Control in British Colonial Africa, 1900-1940," Osiris 19 (2004): 44 pp.

Richard P. Strong, "The Importance of Ecology in Relation to Disease," Science 82 (1935): 308-317.

CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 1 DUE IN CLASS, FEBRUARY 11

2/13 Meeting with Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Middleton Health Sciences Library

2/18 *Controlling Insects, Engineering Environments*

Warwick Anderson, "The Nature of Culture: Environment and Race in the Colonial Tropics," in Imagination and Distress in Southern Environmental Projects, edited by Paul Greenough and Anna L. Tsing (Durham: Duke University Press, forthcoming), 26 pp.

Stephen Frenkel, "Geography, Empire, and Environmental Determinism," Geographical Review 82 (1992): 143-153.

William C. Gorgas, Sanitation in Panama (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1915), pp. 148-152, 182-196, 279-292.

Letter from Enrique Plummer in Lancelot S. Lewis, The West Indian in Panama: Black Labor in Panama, 1850-1914 (Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1980), pp. 247-251.

2/20 *The Natural History of Infectious Disease*

Warwick Anderson, "Natural Histories of Infectious Disease: Ecological Vision in Twentieth-Century Biomedical Science," Osiris 19 (2004), 55pp.

Sir Frank MacFarlane Burnet, Natural History of Infectious Disease (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1953), pp. 1-25, 338-351.

2/25 *Agents of Empire*

Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies (New York: W. W. Norton, 1997), pp. 195-214

William Cronon, Changes in the Land: Indian Colonists and the Ecology of New England (New York: Hill & Wang, 1983), pp. 82-107.

2/27 *The Global Threat of Emerging Diseases*

Nicholas B. King, "'Disease Knows No Borders': The Scale Politics of Emerging Diseases," Osiris 19 (2004): 35 pp.

Laurie Garrett, "The Return of Infectious Disease," Foreign Affairs (1996): 66-79.

Richard Preston, "Crisis in the Hot Zone," New Yorker (October 26, 1992), pp. 58-81.

DRAFT OF CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS, FEBRUARY 27

**The Industrial Landscape**

3/4 *Inefficiency, Waste, and the Bacteriological Revolution*

Martin V. Melosi, The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America from Colonial Times to the Present (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), pp. 103-116.

Nancy Tomes, "The Private Side of Public Health: Sanitary Science, Domestic Hygiene, and the Germ Theory, 1870-1900," Bulletin of the

History of Medicine 64 (1990): 509-539.

Jane Adams, Twenty Years at Hull-House with Autobiographical Notes (New York: MacMillan Co., 1945), pp. 281-299.

PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS, MARCH 4

3/6 *The Nuisance of Smoke*

Harold Platt, "Invisible Gases: Smoke, Gender, and the Redefinition of Environmental Policy in Chicago, 1900-1920," Planning Perspectives 10 (1995): 67-97.

Charles A. Reed, "The Smoke Question Viewed From a National Standpoint," American Medicine (20 April 1905): 703-705.

"War on I.C. Smoke Planned by Women," Chicago Record-Herald, 19 September 1908, p. 3.

C. H. Bromley, "A Smoke Bureau," New York Times, 13 August 1913.

3/11 *Workplaces of Death*

David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz, "The Early Movement for Occupational Safety and Health, 1900-1917," in Sickness and Health in America: Readings in the History of Medicine and Public Health, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., edited by Judith W. Leavitt and Ronald L. Numbers (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1997), pp. 467-482.

Christopher Sellers, "Factory as Environment: Industrial Hygiene, Professional Collaboration and the Modern Sciences of Pollution," Environmental History 18 (1994): 55-83.

Alice Hamilton, Exploring the Dangerous Trades (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1943), pp. 114-119, 125-137.

3/13 *Harlan County USA*

FINAL DRAFT OF CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS, MARCH 13

SPRING BREAK

3/25 *Black Lung*

Daniel M. Fox and Judith F. Stone, "Black Lung: Miners' Militancy and Medical Uncertainty, 1968-1972," Bulletin of the History of Medicine 54 (1980): 43-63.

Barbara Ellen Smith, Digging Our Own Graves: Coal Miners and the Struggle over Black Lung Disease (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987), pp. 205-218.

United States Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor. Subcommittee on Labor Standards. Field Hearings on Black Lung: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Labor Standards of the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, One Hundred First Congress, second session : hearings held ... March 30 ... April 20 ... June 25 ... August 27, 1990. (Washington: GPO, 1990), pp. 17-18, 260-265.

3/27 NO CLASS

4/1 *Biological Citizenship*

Ronnie Johnston and Arthur McIvor, "Oral History, Subjectivity, and Environmental Reality: Occupational Health Histories in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland," Osiris 19 (2004).

Adriana Petryna, "Biological Citizenship: An Anthropology of Chernobyl-Exposed Populations," Osiris 19 (2004).

TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE IN CLASS, APRIL 1

### **Toxic Subjects**

4/3 *An Airborn Toxic Event*

Lynne Page Snyder, "The Death-Dealing Smog Over Donora, Pennsylvania': Industrial Air Pollution, Public Health Policy, and the Politics of Expertise, 1948-1949," Environmental History Review 18 (1994): 117-139.

Devra Davis. When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution (New York: Basic Books 2002), pp. 5-30, 55-88.

4/8 *Nuclear Landscapes-I*

Scott Kirsch, "Harold Knapp and the Geography of Normal Controversy: Radioiodine in the Historical Environment," Osiris 19 (2004), 32 pp.

Catherine Caufield, Multiple Exposures: Chronicles of the Radiation Age (New York: Harper & Row, 1989), pp. 101-122.

William K. Wyant, "50,000 Baby Teeth," The Nation, 13 June 1959, pp. 535-537.

Terry Tempest Williams, "The Clan of One-Breasted Women," in Learning to Glow: A Nuclear Reader, edited by John Bradley (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2000), pp. 133-140.

4/10 *Nuclear Landscapes-II*

Guest Speaker: Omie Baldwin

Valerie Kuletz, "Tragedy at the Center of the Universe," in Learning to Glow: A Nuclear Reader, edited by John Bradley (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2000), pp. 141-157.

4/15 *The Suburbs of Silent Spring*

Christopher Sellers, "Body, Place, and the State: The Makings of an 'Environmental' Imaginary in the Post-World War II U.S.," Radical History Review 74 (1999): 31-64.

Rachel Carson, Silent Spring (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1962), pp. 1-37, 172-197, 219-243, 296-297.

FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS, APRIL 15

4/17 *Farmworkers and Pesticides*

Linda Nash, "The Fruits of Ill-Health: Pesticides and Worker's Bodies in Post-World War II California," Osiris 19 (2004), 34 pp.

Cesar Chavez, "Farm Workers at Risk," in Toxic Struggles: The Theory and Practice of Environmental Justice, edited by Richard Hofrichter (Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1993), pp. 164-170.

4/22 *The Anti-Toxics Campaign*

Celene Krauss, "Challenging Power: Toxic Waste Protests and the Politicization of White, Working-Class Women," in Community Activism and Feminist Politics: Organizing Across Race, Class and Gender, edited by Nancy A. Naples (New York: Routledge, 1998), pp. 129-150.

Phil Brown and Edwin Mikkelsen, No Safe Place: Toxic Waste, Leukemia, and Community Action (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), pp. 125-163.

4/24 *Blue Vinyl*

FIRST DRAFT OF FILM REVIEW DUE IN CLASS, APRIL 24

4/29 *Bhopal and the Right-to Know*

Kim Fortun, "Databasing Dis-ease: From Bhopal to the Informing of Environmental Health," Osiris 19 (2004), 29 pp.

SCORECARD ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS, APRIL 29

5/1 *The Environmental Justice Movement*

Michelle Murphy, "White Noise, Race, and the Privilege of Imperception in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," Osiris 19 (2004), 31 pp.

Robert D. Bullard, Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality, 3d ed. (Boulder: Westview Press, 2000), pp. 97-112.

UCC Commission for Racial Justice, Toxic Waste and Race in the United States (1987).

5/6 Guest Speaker

5/8 *Activism and Hope*

Giovanna DiChiro, “‘Living is for Everyone’: Border Crossings for Community, Environment, and Health,” Osiris 19 (2004), 33 pp.

FINAL DRAFT OF FILM REVIEW DUE IN CLASS, MAY 8

5/16 FINAL TAKE HOME-EXAM OR RESEARCH PAPER DUE