

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2019
SYLLABUS

HIST 3350: North American Environmental History 3 HRS			
Department of	History & Political Science	School of	Liberal Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	<i>Dr. Matthew Babcock</i>		
Office Location:	<i>DAL 2 220</i>		
Office Phone:	<i>972-338-1554</i>		
Email Address:	Matthew.Babcock@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours:	MW 1:00pm-2:30pm, TR 4:00-5:30pm & 7:00-8:00pm, and by appointment.		
Course Format/Structure:	Face to Face		
Classroom Location:	<i>DAL 2 212</i>		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	TR 5:30pm-6:50pm		
Course Catalog Description:	Examines the history of human interaction with North America's natural world from pre-European contact to the present.		
Prerequisites:	3 hrs of History and Biology coursework		
Co-requisites:	NA		
Required Texts:	<i>Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History.</i> 4th Edition. By Ted Steinberg (Oxford University Press, 2018) ISBN: 9780190864422.		
Recommended Text and References:	Additional articles and book chapters will be provided on Canvas.		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: (Founders Hall) phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library e-mail: Library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: (Building 1) phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com		
Course Overview:			
	This course surveys the history of human interaction with North America's natural world from pre-European contact to the present. It proceeds from the premise that, in addition to humans, plants, animals, climate, and diseases are central historical actors. The primary goals are to explore the numerous ways that nature has shaped North American history and that Americans of all sorts have attempted to reshape and control their environments. Major themes of the course include the ecological impact of the Columbian Exchange, the commodification of nature, and the rise of the corporation. The classes will consist of lectures that complement the assigned textbook chapters and discussions of assigned readings. To facilitate interactive learning about North America's natural world during this period, we will also examine maps, works of art, photographs, and films from different eras.		
Learning Outcomes:			
1	Demonstrate critical thinking by understanding the impact of the natural world on the history of North America from pre-European contact to the present.		
2	Demonstrate critical thinking and written communication skills by writing an analytical essay and response paper with a thesis statement drawing on historical evidence from this course.		
3	Demonstrate critical thinking and written communication skills by writing a research paper based on primary and secondary historical sources.		
4	Demonstrate critical thinking and oral communication skills by interpreting historical monographs, essays, and documents and reflecting on them in class discussions.		

5	Demonstrate personal and social responsibility by researching, writing, and speaking about an environmental issue or problem.
6	Demonstrate critical thinking, personal responsibility, and social responsibility by applying these skills in daily life as an active citizen in a democratic society.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Canvas announcement.

TIMELINE TOPICS (CS=Canvas)

<u>Week 1</u>	
January 15	Introduction Steinberg, Prologue
January 17	Lecture: North America before Columbus Steinberg, Chapter 1 CS: Cronon, <i>Changes in the Land</i> (1983), Preface and Chapter 1 Film: <i>Apocalypto</i> (2006)
<u>Week 2</u>	
January 22	Discussion: Indigenous Ecology CS: Shepherd Krech III, <i>The Ecological Indian</i> (1999), 15-43 CS: Charles C. Mann, "1491" (2002) CS: Cronon, Chapter 3
January 24	Research Paper and Resources for North American Environmental History CS: Cronon, Chapter 4
<u>Week 3</u>	
January 29	Lecture: North America Transformed Steinberg, Chapter 2 CS: Cronon, Chapter 5
January 31	Discussion: Columbian Exchange and Native Depopulation CS: Jared Diamond, "Predicting Environmental History" (1998) CS: David S. Jones, "Virgin Soils Revisited" (2003) Cronon, Chapter 8
<u>Week 4</u>	
February 5	No Class—Research and Writing Day
February 7	Response Paper #1 Due Discussion: <i>Changes in the Land</i> Steinberg, Chapter 3
<u>Week 5</u>	
February 12	Lecture: Market Revolution Steinberg, Chapter 4 CS: Henry David Thoreau, <i>Walden</i> (1854) CS: Jacoby, <i>Crimes Against Nature</i> (2001), Introduction and Chapter 1
February 14	Research Paper Topic Due Discussion: Slavery and the Environment Steinberg, Chapter 5 CS: Frederick Law Olmstead, <i>Journeys and Explorations in the Cotton Kingdom</i> (1861) CS: Jacoby, Chapter 2
<u>Week 6</u>	
February 19	Lecture: Food and the Civil War Steinberg, Chapter 6 CS: Jacoby, Chapter 3

- February 21** **Research Paper Thesis Statement Due**
 Discussion: King Cotton and the Postbellum South
 Steinberg, Chapter 7
 CS: Louis Hughes, *Thirty Years a Slave* (1897)
 CS: Jacoby, Chapter 4
- Week 7
 February 26 Lecture: Colonizing the West
 Steinberg, Chapter 8
 CS: Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Frontier in American History* (1893)
 CS: Jacoby, Chapter 5
- February 28** **Mid-Term Exam**
- Week 8
 March 5 Lecture: Preservation and Conservation
 Steinberg, Chapter 9
 CS: Jacoby, Chapter 6 and Epilogue
- Film: *The Last Explorers: John Muir* (2011)
- March 7** **Response Paper #2 Due**
 Discussion: *Crimes Against Nature*
- Week 9
 March 12, 14 No Class—Spring Break
- Week 10
 March 19 Lecture: Industrialization and Urbanization
 Steinberg, Chapter 10
 CS: Robert Gottlieb, “Industrial Pollution and Reform” (1993)
- March 21 Discussion: Agribusiness and Dust Bowl
 Steinberg, Chapter 11
 CS: Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl* (1979), 3-8, 26-43
- Film: *The Plow that Broke the Plains* (1936)
- Week 11
March 26 **Annotated Bibliography Due**
 Lecture: Atomic Age
 CS: Sara Dant, “Booming the West” (2017)
- Film: *Atomic Cafe* (1982)
- March 28 Discussion: Fast Food Nation
 Steinberg, Chapter 12
 CS: Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* (2006), 65-84, 109-117
- Film: *Food, Inc.* (2008)
- Week 12
 April 2 Lecture: Suburbanization
 Steinberg, Chapter 13
- April 4 Discussion: Conspicuous Consumption
 Steinberg, Chapter 14
- Week 13
 April 9 No Class—Writing Day
- April 11** **First Draft of Research Paper Due by 7pm**

<u>Week 14</u>	
April 16	Lecture: Rise of Environmentalism Steinberg, Chapter 15
April 18	Discussion: Environmental Thought CS: Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic" (1948) CS: Rachel Carson, <i>Silent Spring</i> (1962) CS: Edward Abbey, <i>Desert Solitaire</i> (1975)
<u>Week 15</u>	
April 23	Lecture: Globalization Steinberg, Chapter 16
	Film: <i>Food, Inc.</i> (2008)
April 25	Last day to submit Response Paper #3 Discussion: Global Climate Change CS: Sara Dant, "Sustainability and the 'Triumph of the Commons'" (2017) CS: Naomi Oreskes, "The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change" (2004)
	Film: <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> (2006)
<u>Week 16</u>	
April 30	No Class—Review for Final Exam
May 2	Final Exam
<u>Week 17</u>	
Fri., May 10	Final Draft of Research Paper due by 7pm

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Attendance – *Faithful class attendance is crucial since lectures complement the readings, rather than duplicate them. After the fourth missed class, each additional absence, whether excused or unexcused, will result in a five-point grade reduction from your final attendance grade in the course.*

Participation – *Participation is an important component of this class. Lectures are interactive and approximately fifteen minutes of each class will be set aside for discussion of documents, maps, paintings, and film clips. I encourage you to participate both by answering my questions and by asking me your own. The quality of your comments is more important than the quantity.*

Exams – *Two equally weighted exams will consist of two essay questions that will ask you to support an argument with evidence from your readings and class notes. The final exam will be given on the last day of class but is not cumulative. You will receive a review sheet with potential essay questions prior to each exam.*

Assignments – *Written assignments constitute fifty percent of your overall grade in the course. To improve the quality of class discussion, you will write three 500-750 word response papers: one on the assigned chapters in Cronon, Changes in the Land, one on the assigned chapters in Jacoby, Crimes Against Nature, and one on an additional reading assignment. A 2500-word research paper on a historical environmental problem or issue is due by the end of the exam period. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and include footnotes and an annotated bibliography describing the content and utility of the sources you consulted for your paper.*

The research must include primary and secondary printed sources, not simply on-line materials.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Total
Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
3 Response Papers	15%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Research Paper	25%
Total:	100%

Grade Determination:

A = 90-100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0-59

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance)

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDDisability@untDallas.edu or at Founders Hall, room 204. (UNT D Policy 7.004)

CoursEval Policy

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy

Written assignments should be submitted in hard copy or electronically by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late papers will be penalized and will receive a one-third letter grade reduction for each day they are late. So if you turn in an A paper two days late, you would receive a B+.

Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). In such a case the student should still make every effort to communicate with the instructor by phone or e-mail prior to the exam and take the make-up exam within a week of the originally scheduled date.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity (Policy 7.002) at

http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf

Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. In addition, all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers and written assignments must include the following statement: "*On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.*"

Please note that I take your signing of this statement very seriously, and the minimum grade penalty for violating the Code of Academic Integrity in this course will be a zero on that assignment, quiz, or exam.

Bad Weather Policy: Campus facilities will close and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information please refer to <http://www.untdallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>

Attendance and Participation Policy: (*Discuss your attendance and participation policy.*)

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <http://www.untdallas.edu/hr/upol>

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate. (UNTD Policy 7.001)

Electronics:

Cell phones and other hand-held electronic devices are not permitted in this class.

Laptops:

Laptops are only permitted with instructor approval and should be used solely for course-related activities. Anyone found surfing the internet during class will lose future computer privileges.

Food and Drink

Food is not permitted in this class, but you may bring a non-alcoholic drink.