

GEOG 3017: READINGS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY: SEMESTER 1, 2002

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1. The style of this course

The course embraces a broad definition of environmental history, and offers the opportunity to explore a range of approaches dealing with environmental issues across many time scales. The course allows students to familiarise themselves with an emerging interdisciplinary field, and to focus on the dimensions of environmental history that interest them most. Students will need to be self-motivated to read, think and write. *By the end of the course, students should have a broad overview of environmental history - topics, issues, methods, directions and contributions - and a deeper understanding of a particular aspect of environmental history of interest to them.* Students may pursue quite varied topics in their reading and in their written work (eg. political and institutional histories, cultural dimensions, literature review, biophysical reconstructions, and so on, all across many possible locations and scales of space and time). It is expected that the variety of student interests, backgrounds and inputs will be a positive feature of the course. The emphasis will be on Australia, but this does not preclude students pursuing international and comparative studies.

2. Contact and work program

One weekly seminar of one-and-a-half to two hours duration is the only set contact (*****). Students are expected to devote a total of about 8 hours/week to the course (seminar, reading, written work). Seminars will be based either on a presentation/discussion by a researcher active in environmental history, presentations by students about their planned written work, or a discussion of a set reading. Students are expected to attend regularly and contribute actively in seminars. The lecturers will be available outside seminar times for guidance on readings, topics, etc.

3. Assessment (proposed)

i) Seminar participation (attendance, contribution) – 15%.

ii) Book Review: a review of a key book in environmental history, including integration and citation of at least two other related pieces of work (eg. journal articles, book chapters) in a related area. The book may be a single-authored or edited volume, although be aware that the task of reviewing an edited volume is quite different. The review should feature full bibliographic details and a brief description of the coverage and main arguments. However, the bulk of the review should be critical, evaluating the merit (or otherwise) of the book and the contribution it makes. Do not spend too long on this exercise as the weight of the course is based on the essay. No more than 1000 words, due Friday April 5th – 25%.

iii) Research Essay in environmental history, the topic to be chosen by the student (and approved by one of the lecturers), of 4-5000 words. The format will be based on that required by a nominated, relevant academic journal (instructions to be distributed), due Friday June 7th – 60%.

The preliminary reading list overleaf identifies core readings, and some other relevant sources. Familiarity with a range of the core readings (but not everything) will be expected of students by the end of the course, and evidence of wide reading should be apparent in the research essay.

1. Books in the ANU library

a) In Chifley short loan (personal reserve, 2 hour loan)

Collection of journal articles in binder (see handout).

Dovers, S. (ed). 1994. *Australian environmental history: essays and cases*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press (also at Hancock, GF801.A88).

Dovers, S. (ed). 2000. *Environmental history and policy: still settling Australia*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Griffiths, T. and Robin, L. (eds). 1997. *Ecology and empire: environmental history of settler societies*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.

Hutton, D. and Connors, L. 1999. *A history of the Australian environment movement*. Melbourne: Cambridge University Press (also at Hancock, GE199.E8.H88).

Miller, C. and Rothman, H. (eds). 1997. *Out of the woods: essays in environmental history*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. (Selected articles from the journal *Environmental History*.)

Ponting, C. 1991. *A green history of the world*. London: Penguin (also at Hancock, GF75.P66).

Robin, L. 1998. *Defending the Little Desert: the rise of ecological consciousness in Australia*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press (also at Hancock, GE199.A8.R635).

Simmons, I. G. 1996. *Changing the face of the earth: culture, environment, history*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell. (1st ed. (1989) at Hancock, GF75.S56).

Worster, D. 1994. *Nature's economy: a history of ecological ideas*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (1st edition, at Hancock, QH541.W638 1985.)

Special issue of *Environment and History* (Vol 4(2) 1998) on Australia.

b) Other books in library

Bilsky, L.J. (ed). 1980. *Historical ecology: essays on environment and social change*. Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press. Hancock, GF13.H57.

Bolton, G. 1992. *Spoils and spoilers: a history of Australians shaping their environment*. 2nd ed. Sydney: Allen and Unwin. Hancock, GF801.B64. (1st edition (1981) in library also).

Bonyhady, Tim 2000. *The Colonial Earth*, Melbourne: The Miegunyah Press. Hancock GE199.A8B66 2000

Boyden, S.V. 1987. *Western civilization in biological perspective: patterns in biohistory*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Chifley, HM106.B68.

Coward, D. 1988. *Out of sight: Sydney's environmental history 1851-1981*. Canberra: Research School of Social Sciences, ANU. Hancock RA566.5.N4C69.

Dargavel, J. 1995. *Fashioning Australia's forests*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press. Hancock, SD243.D37.

Davison, Graeme 1978. *The rise and fall of marvellous Melbourne*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press. Chifley HC648.M4.D3

Elvin, M. and Tsui-jung, L. (eds). *Sediments of time: environment and society in Chinese history*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Hancock, QH540.C6.S44.

Flannery, T.F. 1994. *The future eaters: an ecological history of the Australasian lands and people*. Sydney: Reed Books. Hancock, GF13.3.A8F52.

Flannery, T. F. 2001. *The Eternal Frontier. An ecological history of North America and its peoples*. Melbourne: Text Publishing. Hancock QH102 .F63 2001

Glacken, C.J. 1967. *Traces on the Rhodian shore: nature and culture in Western thought from ancient times to the end of the eighteenth century*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Hancock, GF31.G6.

- Griffiths, Tom 2001. *Forests of ash: An environmental history*. Oakleigh: Cambridge University Press. (On order at Hancock)
- Grove, R.H. 1995. *Green imperialism: colonial expansion, tropical island Edens, and the origins of environmentalism, 1600-1860*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Hancock, GE195.G76.
- Paddle, Robert 2000. *The last Tasmanian tiger: the history and extinction of the thylacine*. Oakleigh, Victoria: Cambridge University Press. Hancock, QL737.M336 P34 2000
- Powell, J.M. 1976. *Environmental management in Australia, 1788-1914: guardians, improvers and profit*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press. Chifley, HC610.E5.P68.
- Robin, Libby 2001. *The flight of the emu: one hundred years of Australian ornithology 1901-2001*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press. Hancock, QL672.73.A8R63 2001
- Rolls, E. 1981. *A million wild acres*. Sydney: Nelson. Hancock SD244.N4R64.
- Sinclair, Paul 2001. *The Murray: A river and its people*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press. Chifley DU180.M8S562 2001
- Turner, B.L. et al (eds). *The earth as transformed by human action: global and regional changes in the biosphere over the past 300 years*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Hancock fGF75.E15.
- Worster, D. (ed). 1988. *The ends of the earth: perspectives on modern environmental history*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Hancock, GF13.E52.

2. Journals

Australian Geographical Studies. Chifley, G1.A88.

Australian Geographer. Chifley, G1.A8.

Australian Journal of Environmental Management. Hancock, QH540.A883.

Environment and History. National Library, S 304.2 ENV.

***Special issue of this journal dealing with Australia (vol 4, no 2, 1998) in Chifley short loan.*

Environmental History (Held at ANU to 1993 only.) Hancock, QH540.E575. (Formerly *Environmental History Review*, and *Environmental Review*) See also Miller and Rothman, on short loan. If you want particular issues of this, consult Libby Robin as she has a nearly complete set from about 1980 onward.

Historical Records of Australian Science. Hancock, Q1.A83

Journal of Historical Geography. Chifley, G1.J85.

Note: There are other relevant journals and books you will discover through the bibliographies of some of the above and that you will need to explore as you research your essay. Remember, environmental history is a field that cannot be adequately researched through the web, but the Australian environmental history web-site at <http://cres.anu.edu/environhist/> is worth a browse.

3. Reviews

Book reviews in various styles are published by most journals. A useful set of reviews by way of an introduction to reviewing (as well as an outline of a number of the key texts in this course) can be found at:

<http://cres.anu.edu/environhist/reviews.html>