



Department of History

University of California, Santa Barbara

** HISTORY 107G, HISTORY OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS
SPRING QUARTER 2002 **

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History 107G/ES 107

NH 1109

Tu, Th. 12:30-1:45

Professor Osborne

Office: 4222 HSSB

Office hours: Wed. 10-12, and by appointment

Email: [osborne@history.ucsb.edu \(mailto:osborne@history.ucsb.edu\)](mailto:osborne@history.ucsb.edu)

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Required texts:

Gale E. Christianson, *Greenhouse: The 200-year Story of Global Warming* (Penguin, 1999).

Mike Davis, *Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster* (Vintage Books, 1998).

J. R. McNeill, *An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World* (W. W. Norton, 2000).

Mikulas Teich, R. Porter, B. Gustafsson, eds. *Nature and Society in Historical Context* (Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Note: Abbreviations for readings assignments from the two texts by McNeill; and Teich, et. al., eds. are as follows: Mc=McNeill; T=Teich. Note that neither text matches the exact contents of the lectures. It is required, however, that students will be prepared to be tested on the major arguments and content of the Christianson, McNeill, and Davis text as well as assigned portions of Teich.

Course Plan: This class examines environmental problems in historical context. After treating select environmental ideas and events at key historical moments in the Western tradition it focuss on modern [post 1800] events, ideas, and issues.

Grades: Grades are calculated in the following manner: a mid-term (30%) on 7 May to be taken in class; a final (40%) to be taken during finals week; and an essay of eight pages (30%, including 5% for the abstract) typed and double-spaced (eight pages without the bibliography) to be built around a theme drawn from Mike Davis, *Ecology of Fear*. Attendance at lectures is expected, and students may have up to two unexcused absences without compromising their grade.

Instructions for the essay: All students need to have their essay topics approved by the instructor. To get your essay topic approved, examine the Davis volume and prepare *two* copies of a typed single page with a working title and a one-page abstract of the proposed topic. This must be handed in to the instructor no later than the start of class on 23 April. The essay topic must be relevant to the content of the course. The essay itself must have all pages numbered and is to include standard bibliographic references, such as footnotes or endnotes, complete pagination of articles or sources used, and quotation marks or other attribution where appropriate. It must also include a bibliography arranged in alphabetical order by author at the end of the essay of fifteen sources *external to the class*. Only a maximum of three of these may be from websites which are to be placed at the end of the other entries. Each entry in the bibliography must be annotated with a brief annotation of no more than three sentences which provides a succinct summary of the entry and comment on its utility for your essay.

Plagiarism: Do not violate UCSB's policy on plagiarism [which means representing another's ideas or exact words as your own]. It is the responsibility of all students in this class to have read and be familiar with University Regulation 102.01.

In addition to the weekly assigned readings, it is the responsibility of all students to have read all of the Davis book and Gale Christianson's *Greenhouse* prior to Tuesday, 28 May.

Week 1:

Readings: T, pp. 9–17, 18–36; Mc, pp. xxi–xxvi, 3–17.

2 April. Introduction and requirements. Why study global environmental problems? Ancient views of the earth.

4 April. Summation of class list of global environmental problems, assignment of topics for presentations. Hippocrates and environmental thinking.

Week 2:

Readings: Mc, pp. 21–49. Start reading Christianson volume.

9 April. Population: The pathological environment of the Middle Ages: Death and the Black Death.

11 April. Population: Perspectives prior to Malthus; the Malthusian view.

Week 3:

Readings: T, pp. 124–147, 148–162, 176–194.

16 April. The views of Carolyn Merchant, or, the problems of the mechanistic world view.

18 April. Climatic doctrine in the Enlightenment.

Week 4:

Readings: Continue with Christianson volume with special attention to the industrial revolution.

23 April. Alexander von Humboldt, biogeography, and the animistic world view ca. 1800 Paper abstracts due at start of class.

25 April. NO CLASS.

Week 5:

Readings: T, pp. 257–273.

30 April. Medicine, colonialism, and development: The problem of Malaria.

2 May. Medicine, colonialism, and development: The problem of Sleeping Sickness.

Week 6:

Readings: Mc, pp. 84–117 for mid-term; Mc, pp. 296–323 post mid-term.

7 May. Mid-Term.

9 May. Chernobyl: The worst nuclear disaster.

Week 7:

Readings: Mc, pp. 325–356.

14 May. What is "good" science and what is "good" environmental science?.

16 May. Al Gore's environmental ideas: A global Marshall Plan.

Week 8:

Readings: T, pp. 332–346.

21 May. The challenge of Global Warming; video and commentary.

23 May. Rhetorical strategies: good business becomes green business.

Week 9:

Readings: Review of Mc, pp. 325–356. Christianson and Davis completed.

28 May. A history of climate science.

30 May. An environmental history of lead in America. [guest lecture by Dr. Peter Neushul, UCSB] Essays due in hard copy this date by start of class. Grades drop a grade per day for late essays and are not accepted after start of class on 4 June.

Week 10:

4 June. Ozone: How we have changed nature or "Cancer in the sky".

6 June. The Gaia hypothesis.

FINAL: SATURDAY, 8 JUNE, 12:00 NOON – 3:00 P.M. Bring your own Blue-Books.

This site is best viewed at 800 x 600.

If any of this material is not accessible to you, please contact our department by telephone at 805.893.2991, by email at salzgeber@history.ucsb.edu,

or by mail at Department of History; University of California, Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara, CA 93106 and we will provide alternatives.

Site designed by Jason M. Kelly

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