

The background of the slide features four celestial bodies arranged horizontally. From left to right: Mars, showing its reddish-orange surface with dark spots; Venus, appearing as a pale yellowish-brown sphere; Earth in a dark state, showing a brownish-green surface; and Earth in a bright state, showing blue oceans, white clouds, and green landmasses. The text is overlaid on the first three bodies.

Environment across Cultures: Review Parts 3-5 | Take-Home Final

**ENG/ENV M30: Environment across Cultures
Prof. Heise
Spring 2023**

Course Review 3: Environmentalism and the City

- In Western as well as quite a few non-Western cultural traditions, **cities have been seen as the opposite of nature**.
- In this context, the countryside or the wilderness come to represent nature, whereas the city represents culture.
- Urban ecologists, urban planners, and architects have gone from considering **nature in cities to nature for cities to cities as nature**.
- The environmental justice movement has often focused on cities and inequality.
- Cities are **habitat for humans as well as nonhumans**; can function as **sanctuaries** for native and non-native endangered species.
- Cities contribute to **climate change**, but also suffer some of the most serious consequences.

Materials to review: | Price's "Thirteen Ways" | Wolch's "Zoöpolis" | "Heirlooms of Conquest" podcast | Pulido | Stand-LA Website | *Urban Ark Los Angeles* | Weik von Mossner | *The Day after Tomorrow* | Lectures 7, 8, 10, 16, and 17

Course Review 4: Environmentalism and Biodiversity Conservation

- The **Columbian Exchange** from the 15th century onward, a consequence of colonialism, has transformed the configurations of plant and animal species around the globe.
- While extinctions of individual species are a natural part of biological evolution, mass extinctions are rare. Ecologists fear that humans are currently causing the **sixth mass extinction** in the 3.5 billion years of life on Earth.
- Conservation efforts typically focus on "**charismatic megafauna**": on animals, on vertebrates, on birds and mammals.
- These megafauna species are typically portrayed with the story templates of tragedy and elegy.
- These megafauna species typically stand in for the identity and history of human communities: tribes, nations, regions.
- Multispecies justice: decisions between different species in conservation, and between the needs of humans and nonhuman

Materials to review: Crosby | Heise | Wanigatunga | Wolch
Virunga | Lectures 10, 15, 16, and 17

Course Review 5: Environmentalism and the Anthropocene

- "Anthropocene" means "Age of Humans." It is a new geological age that was postulated by the scientists Eugene Stoermer and Paul Crutzen to describe humans' pervasive human impacts not just on the biology but also the oceans and atmosphere of planet Earth.
- The Anthropocene is usually understood as a narrative of decline (degradation/destruction of nature), but has also been approached as the basis of a new, future-oriented environmentalism.
- The Anthropocene is often equated with climate change, but actually includes many other processes (e.g. land use change, toxification, biodiversity loss).
- Criticisms of the Anthropocene include its emphasis on humans and its neglect of inequality (geopolitical, social, economic, racial, gender, among others).

Materials to review: Stoermer and Crutzen | McKibben | Lectures 1 and 2

Course Feedback

- Please log on to BruinLearn and take a few minutes to complete a course evaluation.
- Your feedback is very valuable and will shape future versions of the course!

Particular Areas for Comment

- Comments on the readings: What did you enjoy, what less, what would you want to see added?
- Did you find inclusive access helpful, or would it be good to have paper copies of books? What about a reader instead of PDFs?
- Did you find the writing assignments helpful? Anything you'd change next time around?



Take-home Final

**Due on BruinLearn
Thursday June 15: 12
noon**



Congratulations, grads!!!

**Everyone, thank you for a
fabulous quarter and have a
great summer!**

