



## Environmental History

Department of History

**College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

HIST 3853-101

MWF: 12-12:50 A.M.

PY 202

Fall 2023

### Contact Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Whitney Snow

**Office:** OD 223

**Office hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (11:00-11:50 A.M.);  
Wednesdays (2:00-3:00 P.M.); and by appointment

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### Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to American environmental history. Exploring the mutual influences of man and nature, it will cover issues ranging from deforestation and pollution to conservation and preservation. Some of the key foci will be invasive species, wilderness, national parks, extinction, environmental racism, and eco-tourism.

### Required Books

Jacoby, Karl. *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*. University of California Press, 2014.

Newman, Richard S. *Love Canal: A Toxic History from Colonial Times to the Present*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Rome, Adam. *Bulldozer in the Countryside*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Spence, Mark David. *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

Steinberg, Ted. *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Warren, Louis S., ed. *American Environmental History*. Wiley Blackwell, 2021.

## Attendance

Students will be permitted to make up missed assignments in the case of official university-related absences. If documentation is provided as evidence, students will also be allowed to make up missed assignments in the case of illness and/or close family death. If you have more than 4 unexcused absences, you may be dropped from the class.

## D2L

Extensive use of D2L is part of this course. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, and gradebook. You should regularly check D2L for information pertaining to the class.

## Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). The instructor will be using Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence. Plagiarism and/or use of Artificial Intelligence is academic dishonesty and will result in a zero for the assignment

## Grading

Assignments	Points
Book Review #1	15%
Book Review #2	15%
Discussion Leadership	15%
Movie Assignment #1	10%
Movie Assignment #2	10%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

## Exams

\*This course includes two exams, a midterm and a final, both of which will consist of six identification terms, two short essays, and one long essay.

\*Students will upload their exams to a D2L dropbox on the due dates.

### **Book Reviews**

\*Students are required to write two book reviews on books from an approved list. Each book review must be 2-3 pages, typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman and double spaced. Further guidelines are on D2L under "Book Review Instructions." On the due dates, September 22 and November 10, upload your book reviews to the appropriate dropboxes.

### **Movie Assignment**

\*Students are expected to write two 5-6-page essays on environmental themed movie from an approved list. Further instructions can be found on our class dashboard on D2L. Click on "Content," and then click on "Movie Assignment Instructions."

\*The essay must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 on the left and right. Submit your movie assignment via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Movie Assignment #1" and "Movie Assignment #2." You must submit the first by 11:30 P.M. on September 15. You must submit the second by 11:30 P.M. on October 27.

### **Discussion Leadership**

\*Each student is expected to lead discussion during one week of the semester. Refer to the guidelines on D2L.

### **Extra Credit**

\*No extra credit assignments will be accepted, but bonus points may be offered for attending instructor-specified events on campus.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

Both exams and all the quizzes are available on D2L. If you fail to take an exam or quiz by the given deadline, you must provide a legitimate reason as to why if you expect to make it up. Forgetting is not a legitimate excuse.

### **Midterm Progress Report**

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. All students will receive this midterm progress report. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the instructor.

### **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28-31  
Deadline to file for December graduation: September 25  
Deadline to file for May graduation: October 2  
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30

### **Instructor's In-Class Policies**

\*Attendance requires more than being present in class. It means showing up prepared; contributing to class discussions; and exhibiting respect for classmates and the instructor.

\*Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class.

\*If seen wearing airpods or headphones, students will be asked to remove them. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the classroom.

\*Laptops are a privilege and not a right. Students are welcome to use laptops to take notes. However, if they are seen using the laptop for a non-class-related purpose, students will be given a verbal warning. Repeat offenders will no longer welcome to bring a laptop to class.

### **Services for Students With Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed.

### **Notice**

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Course Schedule**

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> August 28 August 30 September 1	Syllabus overview and class introductions Warren, Chapter 1 Steinberg, Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b> September 4 September 6 September 8	Steinberg, Chapter 2 Warren, Chapter 2 Spence, Chapters 1-3

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
<b>Week 3</b> September 11 September 13 September 15	Steinberg, Chapter 3 Warren, Chapter 3 Spence, Chapters 4-6; <b>Movie Assignment #1</b>
<b>Week 4</b> September 18 September 20 September 22	Steinberg, Chapter 4 Warren, Chapter 4 Spence, Chapters 7-8; <b>Book Review #1</b>
<b>Week 5</b> September 25 September 27 September 29	Steinberg, Chapter 5 Warren, Chapter 5 Jacoby, Chapters 1-2
<b>Week 6</b> October 2 October 4 October 6	Steinberg, Chapter 6 Warren, Chapter 6 Jacoby, Chapters 3-6
<b>Week 7</b> October 9 October 11 October 13	Steinberg, Chapter 7 Warren, Chapter 7 Jacoby, Chapters 7-8; <b>Midterm</b>
<b>Week 8</b> October 16 October 18 October 20	Steinberg, Chapter 8 Warren, Chapter 8 Newman, Chapters 1-2
<b>Week 9</b> October 23 October 25 October 27	Steinberg, Chapter 9 Warren, Chapter 9 Newman, Chapters 3-5; <b>Movie Assignment #2</b>
<b>Week 10</b> October 30 November 1 November 3	Steinberg, Chapter 10 Warren, Chapter 10 Newman, Chapters 6-9
<b>Week 11</b> November 6 November 8 November 10	Steinberg, Chapter 11 Warren, Chapter 11 Rome, Chapters 1-2; <b>Book Review #2</b>
<b>Week 12</b> November 13 November 15 November 17	Steinberg, Chapter 12 Warren, Chapter 12 Rome, Chapters 3-4

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
<b>Week 13</b> November 20 November 22 November 25	Steinberg, Chapter 13 Warren, Chapter 13 <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Week 14</b> November 27 November 29 December 1	Steinberg, Chapter 14 Warren, Chapter 14 Rome, Chapters 5-7
<b>Week 15</b> December 4 December 6 December 8	Steinberg, Chapter 15 Warren, Chapter 15 Steinberg, Chapter 16

**Final Exam:** December 13 (D2L)