

History 4490
Major Themes in Environmental History
Prof. Thomas H. Keene
Spring 2013

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Website: <http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~tkeene/>

Office: Social Science 4084

Hours: My classes Spring 2012 are at MW 11-12:15 and 5-6:15
 Otherwise I am generally in the office M-Th 9am-6pm unless I have a meeting.
 Drop by or call to make an appointment (office phone # above).

Notice: This course will be administered through Desire 2 Learn (aka D2L or d2l), which is accessed at <http://d2l.kennesaw.edu/>. Use the d2l email system when possible. If you must use my regular email **be sure to put " HIST 2206 "** in the subject line, so I know your message is not spam.

Course Purpose and Policies

I. Purpose:

The aim of this course is to provide a foundational understanding of the role of the natural environment in human history as well as an understanding of the historical origins of contemporary environmental thinking and the environmental movement, and, in so doing, to introduce students to some of the key literature and sources in the field of environmental history as well as to develop their ability to read, write and think critically.

II. Basic Requirements:

Attendance - No formal record will be kept of student's attendance, but brief quizzes on reading as well as in-class writing assignments ("quick-writes") will be a regular feature of the class. Students who miss quizzes and quick-writes will not be able to make up the work. (See below grading). It is the student's responsibility to obtain the phone numbers of classmates to get notes in case of missed classes or changed test dates and to monitor GeorgiaView-Vista for emails and announcements of schedule changes.

Grading - Grades will be calculated on the basis of class preparation/participation, two exams, an article review and a research project. These will be weighted as described below:

Hourly Exam	100 points
Thought Paper	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Class Preparation/Participation	100 points
EHAP project	100 points
Extra credit (25 points max.)	??? points
Total	500 points

Using this point total, term grades will be determined based on the following scale:

500-450=A/ 449-400=B/ 399-350=C/ 349-300=D/ 299-0=F

III. Late, Make-up and Extra Credit Work

Late Work- Drafts, research papers or extra credit work submitted late will result in the loss of one letter grade for each working day the work is late. (Not class day or calendar day, working day, i.e., Monday-Friday.)

Make-up Exams- Students may miss two reading quizzes or in-class quick-writes without penalty, but no make-up will be permitted unless the absence is due to required participation in an official university activity. If an emergency results in a missed mid-term or final exam, students should contact the instructor as early as possible. In ordinary circumstances, no make-up exams will be permitted if the student does not contact the instructor, sent an email or left a voicemail within 24 hours of the missed exam.

Extra Credit Work- Students wishing to do extra-credit work to improve their grade, or just for the sheer pleasure of it, should speak to the instructor. The amount and kind of work and the extra credit awarded are negotiable. Most students do a short paper. Be aware grading is tough. It is very, very rare for extra credit papers to earn the maximum possible points.

IV. Academic Integrity

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

(from Section II-A of the KSU Student Code of Conduct, as modified for Fall semester 2011)

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Office: SO 4084

Hours: My classes Spring 2013 are at TR11:00-12:15 and TR 3:30-4:45

Otherwise I am generally in the office M-R 9am-6pm unless I have a meeting.

Call to make an appointment (office phone # above), or just drop by.

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Assignments and Obligations

Readings (in order of appearance):

- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel* (Norton, 2nd. ed. 2005) excerpts
- Robert Kaplan, *The Revenge of Geography* (Random House, 2012)
- Jared Diamond, *Collapse* (Norton, 2005) Chs. 6,7&8.
- Gilbert White, *The Natural History of Shelburne* (no copyright; first pub.1787) letters 1-10.

- David Thoreau, "Walking" (no copyright, first pub. 1862)
- Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, (Yale, 2001)
- William Cronon, *Changes in the Land* (Hill and Wang, 2003).
- Elizabeth Kolbert, "Recall of the Wild" (*The New Yorker*, Dec. 24-31, 2012)
- Donald Worster, *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas* (2nd ed. Cambridge, 1994) excerpts
- Mark H. Lyle, *The Gentle Subversive: Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, and the Rise of the Environmental Movement* (Oxford, 2007).

The schedule below is subject to changes to be announced in class. Students who miss class should check with classmates on possible changes and are responsible for them.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1/10	Course Intro, Big History and Environmental Determinism	David Christian (18 minute Big Hist) Google "Big History"
1/15	A Natural Experiment of History Outline Urbanization Tables	Google: " Environmental Determinism " Diamond, Guns, Germs and Steel, Ch. 2
1/17	90/10, 10/90; Yali's Question; To Farm or Not to Farm. Urbanization Table Topo Tutorials	Diamond, Guns, Germs and Steel, Preface and Ch.6
1/22	Of Zebras and Axes Topo Quiz	Diamond, Guns, Germs and Steel, Ch. 9 Diamond, Guns, Germs and Steel, Ch 10
1/24	Goldilocks in Greenland	Diamond, Collapse , skim Ch. 6, note map pp182-3. Read Chs. 7-8.
1/29	The Environment and the Grand Narrative: Herodotus and His Successors:	Google "Geographic Determinism" Kaplan, The Revenge of Geography, Ch. 3
1/31	Hourly Exam	
2/5	The Biblical and Colonial Wilderness	Nash, Prologue, Chs. 1 & 2
2/7	The Natural History of Selborne	Gilbert White , "Selborne" poems + letters 1-11
2/12	Thoreau, Civilization and the Nature	Thoreau , "Walking" (entire)
2/14	The Romantic Wilderness	Nash, chs. 3,4,5
2/19	The Wilderness as the New Kind of Frontier	Nash, chs. 6,7,8,9
2/21	John Muir and the Window on the Divine	John Muir, from My Travels in Alaska
2/26	Second thoughts on Wilderness	Conon, Ch.1; Kolbert, "Recall of the Wild"
2/28	First Thought Paper Due EHAP Project - Campus Walkabout	EHAP
March 2-8 -- Spring Break -- No Class		
3/12	New England in a "State of Nature" ?	Conon, Chs. 2 & 3
March 13 - Last Day to Withdraw without and "F"		

3/14	New England "after the Fall"	Cronon, Chs. 4,5,6
3/19	EHAP Project	EHAP
3/21	How a Wilderness became a Mart	Cronon, Chs. 7 & 8
3/26	EHAP Project	EHAP
3/28	The Science of Ecology (lecture) and Aldo Leopold and the Wilderness Society	Nash ch. 11;
4/2	EHAP Project	EHAP
4/4	The Science of Ecology (lecture) and the modern environmental movement	Nash ch. 12
4/9	EHAP Project	EHAP
4/11	Rachel Carsons	Lytle, Prologue, Chs. 1-2
4/16	EHAP Project	EHAP
4/18	Rachel Carsons	Lytle, Chs. 3-4,
4/23	EHAP Project presentations	
4/25	EHAP Project presentations	
4/30	Rachel and Review	Lytle, Epilogue

5/7 (Thursday)

Final Exam: 3:30-5:30pm SO2031

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