

<b>Course Title</b>	: WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
<b>Course Code</b>	: HST2261
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Sectional
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 3 hours per week
<b>Category of Major Prog.</b>	: Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: None
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: None
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: None

### **Brief Course Description**

This course addresses the fundamental issues in world environmental history. We will consider three areas: human interaction with the natural world, the shifting attitudes toward nature, and the impact of human perceptions and actions on the world landscape.

### **Aims**

This course will help students to become familiar with current world environmental concerns and problems.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1) Familiarity with the some of the themes and issues in world environmental history
- 2) Improved critical reading and analytical skills
- 3) Improved English-language writing ability
- 4) Improved historical research abilities

### **Indicative Content**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Interpreting Environmental History
  - B. Major Concepts and Themes
- II. Pre-Columbian Views of Relations between Man and Nature
  - A. Nature vs Culture
  - B. Judaism
  - C. Christianity
  - D. Islam
  - E. Confucius and Mencius
  - F. European Ideas
  - G. African Perceptions
  - H. Native Americans
- III. Agricultural Revolution and Impact on Environment
  - A. Early Man and Environment
  - B. The Creation and Management of Hydraulic Resources in India and China
  - C. The Rise of Cities and Civilization in the Near East
  - D. The Mediterranean and Ecology

- E. Egypt and Agriculture
- IV. Industrial Revolution and Ecological Imperialism
  - A. Ecological Roots of Industrialization
  - B. Industrial Revolution and Environmental Impact
  - C. Nature as Commodity
  - D. The “Columbian Exchange:” Disease, Plants, and Animals
  - E. The Environment and Colonialism in Africa and the Americas
  - F. Population, Deforestation, and Land Use in Asia
- V. The Philosophy of Ecology
  - A. Evolution and Ecology: the Romantic and Darwinian Models
  - B. Ecology and Science
  - C. The Ecosystem Concepts
- VI. The Origins of Conservation in North America
  - A. Modernizing the Landscape
  - B. Discovering Pollution
  - C. Forests and the Conservation Movement
  - D. Conservation, Preservation, and Environmentalism
- VII. Environmental Justice
  - A. Environmental Justice Movements
  - B. Africa
  - C. Latin America
  - D. The U.S.
  - E. Asia
- VIII. Global Environmentalism
  - A. World Environmental Crises
  - B. UNCED and International Efforts
  - C. Environmental Politics and Environmental History
  - D. Conclusion

### **Teaching Method**

We will devote two class meetings each week to lectures and one meeting to discussing the selected readings.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Outcome 1 will be assessed written assignments and tests. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be developed and assessed through the short essays, term paper, handouts, in-class exercises and the essay sections of the midterm and final exam. Outcome 4 will be developed and assessed in the term paper.

## Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 100%

## Required Readings

Selected Readings from the following:

McNeill, John Robert, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World*, New York: Norton, 2000.

Pointing, Clive, *A Green History of the World*, Harmondsworth: Viking-Penguin, 1991.

Worster, Donald, *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977, 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_, ed., *The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

## Supplemental Readings

Beinart, William, *Environment and History: The Taming of Nature in the USA and South Africa*, New York: Routledge, 1995.

Cronon, William, *Changes in the Land*, NY: Hill and Wang, 1984.

Crosby, Alfred W., *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.

Grove, Richard H., *Nature and the Orient: The Environmental History of South and Southeast Asia*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Shapiro, Judith, *Mao's War against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Worster, Donald, *The Wealth of Nature: Environmental History and the Ecological Imagination*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

唐納德·沃斯特(著), 侯文蕙(譯), 《自然的經濟體系: 生態思想史》, 北京: 商務印書館, 1999。

劉翠溶(等編), 《積漸所至: 中國環境史論文集》, 台北: 中研究院經濟所, 1995。

## Important Notes:

(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.