

**History of Ecology and Environmentalism
Fall 2009**

Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 - 4:45 pm.

Please note that the details of this syllabus are not finalized

Instructor: Peder Anker
Office: TBA
Office hours: TBA

Course Description

This course traces the history of ecology and environmentalism back to natural history collecting in the 18th century. The global history of ecological concern stays at the center of this course, which discusses environmental worries in the British, German, Scandinavian, African and American contexts in subsequent centuries. The chief focus will be on more recent U.S. experience in trying to deal with pollution, asthma, and global warming, among other issues. Various ecological understandings of human philosophy, race, gender, fear, religion, sociology, and economy will be subject to critical discussion. Readings will include texts by scientists such as Carolus Linnaeus, Arthur Tansley, and Julian Huxley, as well as social and philosophical writings of authors such as H. G. Wells, John Muir, Jan Smuts, and Arne Naess.

Papers and assignments

There will be a 10 page midterm paper due Tuesday October 20, and a 20 page research paper due Thursday December 17.

Grading

25% Course participation
25% Midterm paper
50 % Final paper

Books to buy:

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, any edition.

Sharon E. Kingsland, *The Evolution of American Ecology 1890-2000*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).

Robert E. Kohler, *Naturalists, Collectors, and Biodiversity, 1850-1950*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).

James Lovelock, *The Revenge of Gaia: Why the Earth is Fighting Back - and How We Can Still Save Humanity*, (London: Penguin, 2007), or any edition.

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2007), or any edition.

William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, (New York: Pearson Longman, 2009), or any edition.

Julian Sze, *Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007).

Spencer R. Weart, *The Discovery of Global Warming: Revised and Expanded Edition*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008).

Lecture and Reading Schedule (Tentative)

Week 1: Introduction

Sept 8: Introduction

No readings

Sept 10: Nature as a moral authority

Philip Mirowski, "The realms of the natural," in *Natural Images in Economic Thought*, Philip Mirowski (ed.), (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 451-483.

Week 2: Nature's Economy

Sept. 15: Natural economies

Emma Spary, "Political, natural and bodily economies" in *Cultures of Natural History*, Nicholas Jardine, James A. Secord and Emma C. Spray (eds.), (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 178-196.

Myles W. Jackson, "Natural and artificial budgets: Accounting for Goethe's economy of nature," *Science in Context*, Vol. 7 (1994), 409-431.

Sept. 17: Linnaeus

Carolus Linnaeus, "The Economy of Nature," Benjamin J. Stillingfleet (trans.), in *Human Life and the Natural World*, Owen Goldin and Patricia Kilroe (eds.), (Peterborough: Broadview press, 1997), 146-150.

Lisbet Koerner, "God's Endless Larder" in *Linnaeus: Nature and Nation*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), 82-94.

Robert Clinton Stauffer, "Ecology in the Long Manuscript Version of Darwin's *Origin of Species* and Linnaeus' *Oeconomy of Nature*," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 104:2 (April 1960), 235-241.

Week 3: Origins of Ecology

Sept. 22: Ecological Imperialism

Richard H. Grove, *Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism 1600-1860* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 1-15, 476-486.

Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004), 73-149.

Eugene Cittadino, *Nature as the Laboratory: Darwinian Plant Ecology in the German Empire, 1880-1990*, (Cambridge: Cambridge university press, 1990), 134-157.

Sept. 24: From Natural History to Ecology

Robert E. Kohler, *Naturalists, Collectors, and Biodiversity*, entire.

Week 4: Framing the American Nature

Sept. 29: The entrepreneurs

Midterm essay proposals due!

Kingsland, *The Evolution of American Ecology*, 1-128.

Stephen A. Forbes, "The Lake as a Microcosm," *Bulletin of the Illinois State Natural History Survey*, (1887), 537-550.

F. B. Sumner, "The responsibility of the biologist in the matter of preserving natural conditions," *Science*, July 1921, 39-43.

Oct. 1: The Chicago School

Gregg Mitman, "From Population to Society: The Cooperative Metaphors of W.C. Allee and A. E. Emerson," *Journal of the History of Biology*, 21 (1988), 173-194.

Eugene Cittadino, "The Failed Promise of Human Ecology," *Science and Nature*, Michael Shortland (ed.), (Oxford: BSHS Monographs, 1993), 252-253.

Eugene Cittadino, "A 'Marvelous Cosmopolitan Preserve:' The Dunes, Chicago, and Dynamics Ecology of Henry Cowles," *Perspectives on Science*, 1 (1993), 520-559.

Thomas Park, "Ecological Sociology," *Ecology* 14 (1933), 318-319.

Week 5: Problems in American Nature

Oct. 6: Conservation refugees

John Muir, "A voice for wilderness," (1901, 1912), in *American Environmentalism*, Roderick Frazier Nash (ed.), (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1990), 94-97.

Mark Dowie, *Conservation Refugees: The Hundred-Year Conflict between Global Conservation and Native Peoples*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2009), 1-22.

Oct. 8: Strangers on the land

Philip J. Pauly, "The Beauty and Menace of the Japanese Cherry Trees: Conflicting Visions of American Ecological Independence," *Isis*, Vol. 87, No. 1 (Mar., 1996), 51-73

Stanley Temple, "The Nasty Necessity: Eradicating Exotics," *Conservation Biology* 4 (June 1990), 113-115.

Banu Subramaniam, "The aliens have landed!" *Meridians* 2 (2002), 26-40.

Peter Coates, *American Perceptions of Immigrant and Invasive Species*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 151-189.

Week 6: The British Empire

Oct. 13: British Ecology

Peder Anker, *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001), 196-244.

Arthur George Tansley, *The Future Development and Functions of the Oxford Department of Botany*, Inaugural Lecture 22 November 1927, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1927).

Herbert George Wells, Julian Huxley and G.P. Wells, "The Science of Ecology," "Life Under control," in *The Science of Life* (New York: Doubleday, Doran & Comp., 1931), Vol. II, 961-1032.

Oct. 15: South African Ecology

Peder Anker, "The Politics of Ecology in South Africa on the Radical Left," *Journal of the History of Biology* 37 (2004), 301-331.

Jan Christian Smuts, "The Spirit of the Mountain" (1923), in *Greater South Africa: Plans for a Better World*, (Johannesburg: The Truth Legion, 1940), 31-35.

John Phillips, "Man at the Cross-Roads," in *Our Changing World-View*, Anonymous (ed.), (Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand Press, 1932), 51-70.

Jan Christian Smuts, "Preamble for the United Nations Charter," draft, undated, one page.

Week 7: Ecology in Germany

Oct. 20: Nazi Germany

Midterm essays due!

Albert Ebner, *German Forests: Treasures of a Nation* (New York: German Library Information, 1940), entire.

Michael Imort, "Eternal forest – eternal *Volk*" in *How Green were the Nazis?* Franz-Josef Brüggemeier (et.al. ed.), (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005), 42-72.

Oct. 22: East and West Germany

Arvid Nelson, *Cold War Ecology: Forests, Farms, and People in the East German Landscape, 1945-1989*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), 141-188.

Horst Mewes, "A Brief History of the German Green Party," in *The German Greens: Paradox between Movement and Party*, Margit Mayer and John Ely (eds.), (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998), 29-48.

Week 8: Cold War US Ecology

Oct. 27: Oak Ridge

Kingsland, *The Evolution of American Ecology*, 129-267.

Stephen Bocking, "Ecosystems, ecologists, and the atom: Environmental research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory", *Journal of the History of Biology*, 28 (1995), 1-47.

Oct. 29: Evaluating Rachel Carson

Carson, *Silent Spring*, entire.

Frank Graham Jr., "*Silent Spring*: The genesis and the storm," *Audubon*, 72 (Jan. 1970), 70-102.

Ralph H. Lutts, "Chemical fallout, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, radioactive fallout, and the environmental movement," *Environmental Review* 9 (1985), 210-225.

Week 9: Environmentalism and the Counterculture

Nov. 3: Whole Earth

Stewart Brand (ed.), *Whole Earth Catalog*, any edition (at the library).

Andrew G. Kirk, "Appropriating technology: *The Whole Earth Catalog* and counterculture environmental politics," *Environmental History*, 6 (2001), 374-394.

Nov. 5: Population growth

Garret Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" *Science* 162 (Dec. 13, 1968), 1243-48.

Paul Ehrlich, *The Population Bomb*, (New York: Ballantine Books, 1969), 5-57.

Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008), 237-276.

Week 10: Religious and Deep Ecology

Nov. 10: Eco-religion

Lynn White Jr., "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis," *Science* 155 (March 1967), 1203-1207.

Jørgen Randers, "The Carrying Capacity of our Global Environment – A Look at the Ethical Alternatives," *Anticipation* 8 (1971), 2-11,

World Council of the Churches, Report from World Conference in Bucharest, "Science and Technology for Human Development: The Ambiguous Future and the Christian Hope: Report," *Anticipation* 19 (1974), 1-43.

Nov. 12: Deep Ecology

Arne Næss as "The shallow and the deep, long-range ecology movements: A summary," *Inquiry*, 16 (1973), 95-100.

Peder Anker, "Science as a Vacation: A History of Ecology in Norway," *History of Science* 45 (2007), 455-479.

Week 11: Environmental Histories

Nov. 17: Environmental History

Donald Worster, "Doing Environmental History," in *The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History*, Donald Worster (ed.), (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), 289-307.

Alon Tal, "Israel, Arabs, and the Environment," in *Pollution in a Promised Land: An Environmental History of Israel*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 327-365.

Nov. 19: Environmental History of Tourism

Gregg Mitman, "Hay Fever Holiday: Health, Leisure, and Place in Gilded-Age America," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 77 (2003), 600-635.

Christine Macy and Sarah Bonnemaïson, *Architecture and Nature: Creating the American Landscape*, (London: Routledge, 2003), 71-135.

Week 12: Environmental Justice

Nov. 24: Race and Environmental Justice

Sze, *Noxious New York*, 49-141.

Nov. 26: THANKS GIVING RECESS

Week 13: History and Politics of Global Warming

Dec. 1: History of Global Warming

Weart, *The Discovery of Global Warming*, entire.

Dec. 3: Politics of Global Warming

Lovelock, *The Revenge of Gaia*, entire.

Week 14: Student presentations

Dec. 8: Student presentations

Dec. 10: Student presentations

Week 15: Student presentations

Dec. 15: Student presentations

Dec. 17: ***Final paper due!*** No classes.