

HIST 3344: AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Fall 2021, Academic 233, TR 8:00 – 9:15

Instructor: Dr. Kenna Archer
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Office: Academic Building #239a
Office hours: TR 9:30 – 11:30, by appt.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores the political, social, intellectual, cultural, and material interactions between humans and the natural world, the ways in which those interactions have changed over time, and the fluid constructions of the word “nature.” Put another way, this class studies large-scale dams and natural disasters, western expansion and southern agrarianism, salmon cannons and super highways, and grounds all of that in an ongoing discussion about our place in the natural world.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Glave and Stoll, *To Love the Wind and Rain*

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will improve their verbal, analytical, and written skills through classroom discussion and written assignments
- Students will demonstrate their ability to interpret primary and secondary source material through classroom discussions and a research paper
- Students will learn to identify and interpret historical development and change as it pertains to American environmental history

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Exams: students will take two exams, a midterm exam and a final exam
- Research Paper: students will write a research paper over a topic of their choosing
- Classroom Participation: students will be expected to participate actively through in-class discussions
- Homework Assignments: students will periodically complete additional assignments (e.g. primary source analysis or reflections) that complement the lecture material

LATE WORK

If you fail to turn in an assignment on the due date, you may turn it in by the next class day for a ten (10) percent penalty. After that, the assignment will be given a zero. All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is the policy of the History Department that missing more than 20 percent of a course (6 absences in a 75-minute course) will lead to a deduction of one full letter grade from the final grade. Additional absences can, at my discretion, result in additional deductions.

* This is the official, departmental policy; please consult with the professor for information on how this policy might change as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to me prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for a religious holy day will be allowed to take an exam or complete any assignments and will not be penalized for the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 for more information

DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is utilizing someone else's writings, ideas, or works without providing due credit or proper citation. Plagiarism is literary theft. Quotation marks and, if instructed by me or in the assignment criteria, footnote/endnote citations should be utilized in order to note the source of a work or idea. If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question or visit this helpful website to avoid common plagiarism pitfalls. There is no excuse for plagiarism. It is your responsibility to plan your semester and time effectively to avoid putting yourself in a situation where you might turn to plagiarism. A digital plagiarism detection program (e.g. SafeAssign or Turn-it-in) will be used to check your work. Be intentional about submitting original work, complete with proper citations.

Academic misconduct is not limited to plagiarism. Academic dishonesty might also include copying somebody else's work, submitting somebody else's work as your own, failing to cite sources, or signing another student into class. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of "unauthorized collaboration" as a form of academic misconduct.

The History Department's policy is that violations of the academic honor code will result in a 0 on an assignment for the first offense and a 0 in the entire class for subsequent offenses. In-class forms of plagiarism, such as signing in for another student, will be considered on a case by case basis, and I reserve the right to fail violators from this course on their first violation in egregious cases of misconduct. All academic integrity violations will be referred to the Executive Director of Student Affairs, who may impose additional sanctions if warranted as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. Once a student has been notified of an academic integrity allegation, the student may not drop the course until the academic integrity processes are complete. If a student drops or withdraws, the student will be reinstated to the course.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs and is the designated department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is Dallas Swafford (dallas.swafford@angelo.edu, 942-2047).

TITLE IX

Angelo State University is committed to providing/strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Miller, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022, michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form. If you wish to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic, Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

It is ASU policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

GRADING

Exams (2)	30%	A = 89.5 – 100
Participation	15%	B = 79.5 – 89.4
Homework	10%	C = 69.5 – 79.4
Research Paper	45%	D = 59.5 – 69.4
Topic Selection (5%)		F = 59.4 – 0
Annotated Bibliography (5%)		
Primary Source Analysis (5%)		
Partial Rough Draft (5%)		
Final Draft (25%)		

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (08/24 – 08/26)

- T: Syllabus + Introduction to Environmental History
- R: Deconstructing the “Environmental Indian” Stereotype

Week 2 (08/31 – 09/02)

- T: Deconstructing the “Environmental Indian” Stereotype
- R: The Ecology of European Contact

Week 3 (09/07 – 09/9)

- T: The Ecology of European Contact
- R: An Ecological Perspective on the English Colonies
- Homework:** Topic Selection Due

Week 4 (09/14 – 09/16)

- T: An Ecological Perspective on the English Colonies
- R: An Ecological Perspective on the English Colonies

Week 5 (09/21– 09/23)

- T: Agrarianism and Expansion in the Early Republic
- R: Agrarianism and Expansion in the Early Republic
- Homework:** Primary Source Analysis Due

Week 6 (09/28 – 09/30)

- T: Industrialization and Urbanization in the Early Republic
- R: Industrialization and Urbanization in the Early Republic

Week 7 (10/05 – 10/07)

- T: Industrialization and Urbanization in the Early Republic
- R: **Midterm Exam**

Week 8 (10/12 – 10/14)

- T: Romanticism, Wilderness & the Sublime
- R: Ruination, Conservation & the Civil War
- Homework:** Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 9 (10/19 – 10/21)

- T: Ruination, Conservation & the Civil War
- R: Writing Day

Week 10 (10/26 – 10/28)

- T: Settling & Extracting the Trans-Mississippi West
- R: Settling & Extracting the Trans-Mississippi West
- Homework:** Partial Rough Draft Due

Week 11 (11/2 – 11/24)

T: The Conservation Movement: An Introduction

R: The Conservation Movement: Urban Clean-up

Week 12 (11/09 – 11/11)

T: The Conservation Movement: Resource Conservation

R: The Conservation Movement: Wilderness Preservation

Week 13 (11/16 – 11/18)

T: The Great Depression, the Dust Bowl & the New Deal

R: The Great Depression, the Dust Bowl & the New Deal

Week 14 (11/23– 11/25)

T: Catch-up Day

R: **Thanksgiving**

Week 15 (11/30 – 12/02)

T: The Go-Go Years of Dam-Building & Post-War Concerns in America

R: The Go-Go Years of Dam-Building & Post-War Concerns in America

Homework: Final Draft Due by Tuesday at 8:00 am

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 7, 8:00 – 10:00