HIST 3344: AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY  
Fall 2018, Academic 221, TR 8:00 – 9:15

Instructor: Dr. Kenna Archer  
Office: Academic Building #239a  
Email: karcher3@angelo.edu  
Office hours: MTWRF 11:00 – 12:00

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course uses primary sources, classroom discussions, personal reflections, and a handful of key texts to examine the interrelationship between humans and the natural world and to reflect on the role of nature in American society. In the process, this class explores the political, social, cultural, and material interactions between Americans and the natural world, the ways in which those interactions have changed over time, and the fluid constructions of the word “nature.”

REQUIRED MATERIALS

• Edward Abbey, *The Monkeywrench Gang*  
• Lisa Brady, *War Upon the Land*  
• William Cronon, *Changes in the Land*  
• Mark David Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness*  
• Carolyn Merchant, *Major Problems in American Environmental History* (recommended)

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 several analytical book reviews  
• Students will learn to identify and interpret historical development and change as it pertains to American environmental history

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

• Exams: students will take one exam at the end of the semester  
• Book Reviews: students will write a 3-page review over each of the assigned texts  
• Group Discussion: students will work in a group to lead a class discussion over one (1) of the assigned books; instructions and guidelines will be handed out at a later date  
• Classroom Assignments: students will complete primary source assignments and short answer assignments in preparation for in-class discussions  
• Classroom Participation: students will be expected to participate actively, which requires consistent attendance and a willingness to keep up with outside assignments
LATE WORK

If a student fails to turn in an assignment on the due date, he or she may turn it in by the next business day (not class day) for a ten (10) percent penalty. He or she may turn it in on the second business day for a twenty (20) percent penalty. For example, if an assignment is due on a Tuesday, a student could submit it on Wednesday for 10% off the grade or on Thursday for 20% off the grade. After that, the assignment will be given a zero. All book reviews will be submitted in-class as a hard copy and via Turn-it-in in Blackboard. All homework assignments will be submitted in-class as a hard copy but do not need to be submitted in 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 from the final average. School-sponsored trips, medical emergencies, and family emergencies are excused absences and will not count against this total, but they must be documented in writing. All other absences will be unexcused, except for religious holidays (which constitute a special case). The best course of action is for students to keep in touch with the professor about all absences.

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 the instructor prior to the absence
• A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete any assignments
• A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, I may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Angelo State University maintains a strict honor code, and it is expected that students will undergo their academic work with complete honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or any other violation of the code will not be tolerated. I uphold this honor code fiercely, and I reserve the right to fail violators from this course on their first violation. For less egregious violations of the honor code, students will receive a zero (0) on the assignment and will lose ten (10) points from their final grade; students will fail this course with a second violation.

Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following: copying somebody else's work, submitting somebody else's work under a different name, failing to appropriately cite research sources, signing another student into class when he or she is absent, lying about the reason for an absence. Ignorance is not an excuse: students should read the Student Handbook or contact me if they have any questions.
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

If a student requires special arrangements to meet course requirements because of a disability, he or she should contact the Student Services Office (Hardeman #203) to arrange accommodations. I cannot offer any accommodations without the proper paperwork so I strongly recommend that students take care of accommodations promptly so that we can assure that everybody is getting the best possible experience from this class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

In order for our lectures and discussions to function as they are intended, we must maintain a classroom environment that is bounded by certain rules and expectations. In short, I expect every student to behave appropriately, which means:

- Students should complete readings and assignments before class
  Students should attend class regularly and show up to class on time
  - The classroom door will be closed five (5) minutes after class begins
  - Students who arrive after the door has been closed will be marked absent
  - Students who consistently arrive late and/or miss class will lose points from their participation grade (as it is not possible to participate en absentia)
  - Students should consult with me at the beginning of the semester if they anticipate frequent absences or tardies
- Students should refrain from texting or talking on their phones during class
  - Students who use their phones in class will lose points from their participation grade (as it is not possible to participate while simultaneously texting)
  - Students who need their phone during class should consult with me at the beginning of the semester so that we can make arrangements
  - Anybody caught using a cell phone or other electronic device during an exam will receive a zero (0) for the exam grade; there is no benefit of the doubt
- Students are not allowed to record class lectures or discussions without permission
- Other reminders for the classroom:
  - No sleeping
  - No dipping, chewing, spitting tobacco
  - No smoking or taking smoke breaks
  - No taunting, mocking, or harassing
  - No working on assignments from other classes

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>A = 89.5 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>B = 79.5 – 89.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews (4)</td>
<td>40% (10% per essay)</td>
<td>C = 69.5 – 79.4</td>
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<td>Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>D = 59.5 – 69.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Discussion</td>
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<td>F = 59.4 – 0</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (08/28 – 08/30)
  T: Syllabus + Introduction to Environmental History
  R: Deconstructing the Environmental Indian

Week 2 (09/04 – 09/06)
  T: Deconstructing the Environmental Indian (Continued)
  R: The Ecology of European Contact

Week 3 (09/11 – 09/13)
  T: An Ecological History of the English Colonies
  R: An Ecological History of the English Colonies (Continued)

Week 4 (09/18 – 09/20)
  T: Discussion, Changes in the Land
  R: Agrarianism and Expansion in the Early Republic

Week 5 (09/25 – 09/27)
  T: Agrarianism and Expansion in the Early Republic (Continued)
  R: Industrialization in the Early Republic

Week 6 (10/02 – 10/04)
  T: Industrialization in the Early Republic (Continued)
  R: Urbanization in the Early Republic

Week 7 (10/09 – 10/11)
  T: Romanticism & the Sublime
  R: A Budding Conservation Ethic in 19th Century America

Week 8 (10/16 – 10/18)
  T: Discussion, War upon the Land
  R: T.B.A. (An exercise on the Trans-Mississippi West)

Week 9 (10/23 – 10/25)
  T: Settling the Trans-Mississippi West
  R: Introduction to the Conservation Movement

Week 10 (10/30 – 11/01)
  T: The Conservation Movement: Progressive Reformers & Urban Clean-up
  R: The Conservation Movement: Progressive Reformers & Resource Conservation

Week 11 (11/06 – 11/08)
  T: The Conservation Movement: Progressive Reformers & Wilderness Preservation
  R: Discussion, Dispossessing the Wilderness
Week 12 (11/13 – 11/15)
T: The Ecology of the Great Depression & Dust Bowl
R: The Ecology of the New Deal

Week 13 (11/20 – 11/22)
T: The Go-Go Years of Dam-Building
R: Holiday!

Week 14 (11/27 – 11/29)
T: Post-War Environmental Concerns in America
R: The Rise of the Environmental Movement

Week 15 (12/04 – 12/06)
T: Discussion, The Monkeywrench Gang
R: Review Day

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday December 11, 8:00 – 10:00