HIST 3344: AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
Fall 2020, Academic 225, TR 8:00 – 9:15

Instructor: Dr. Kenna Archer  Office: Academic Building #239a
Email: karcher3@angelo.edu  Office hours: By appointment only

COURSE OVERVIEW

From agriculture to industry, from our reaction to natural disasters to our fascination with what is called the noble savage, Americans have had a complicated and fluid relationship with the land around them. 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.”

We will use 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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

• Lisa Brady, War Upon the Land
• Alfred Crosby, Ecological Imperialism
• Richard White, The Organic Machine

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 two exams, a midterm exam and a final exam
• Book Reviews: students will write a 3-page review over each of the assigned texts
• 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 through some combination of in-class discussions and the Discussion Board online
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

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin.

Cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or any other violation of the code will not be tolerated, and I reserve the right to fail violators from this course on their first violation. For less egregious violations of the honor code, you will receive a zero (0) on the assignment and will lose ten (10) points from their final grade; you will fail this course with a second violation. Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to): copying somebody else's work, submitting somebody else's work as your own, failing to cite sources, signing another student into class
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 Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022, michelle.boone@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.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

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
- Students should refrain from texting or talking on their phones during class
- Students are not allowed to record class lectures or discussions without permission
- On exam days, students who arrive late will be given a different version of the exam if other students have already submitted their tests

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>40%</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 (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>C = 69.5 – 79.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>D = 59.5 – 69.4</td>
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<td>F = 59.4 – 0</td>
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COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & PRECAUTIONS

Angelo State University is committed to the well-being of the entire Ram Family and is following protocols recommended by local and state officials and the Centers for Disease Control.

1. What are the requirements for being on campus?
   - Face coverings that cover both the nose and mouth are required and must be worn by the entire campus community while on campus or in university facilities.
   - Daily wellness screenings are required and can be completed at ramport.angelo.edu.
   - After completing the daily wellness screening, a badge will be generated with today’s date. This badge may be necessary to enter certain areas of campus so have it handy on your phone.
   - Some areas on campus may offer directional signage to keep traffic moving in the same direction. There will also be signage that reminds you to socially distance.
2. How will classes work?
   - Most classes will involve some combination of on-campus and online instruction.
   - Masks will be required in classrooms, and students will be required to follow a seating chart.
   - Classroom capacities have been reduced to maximize social distancing.
   - For classes with a hybrid format, students are required to follow any directions given by Professors concerning individually assigned class dates.
   - Students are encouraged to stay home if they are not feeling well; online lectures will be made available so they do not fall behind.

3. What will happen if somebody tests positive for COVID-19?
   - If a student tests positive, the relevant medical authorities will alert the university, the department chair, and the professor.
   - At that point, the student will be isolated and quarantined, and anybody who has been in contact with that student will be asked to quarantine as well.
   - Students who are isolated following a positive test or who are quarantined because of exposure to a positive case will be allowed to continue their courses online.
   - Should an instructor or professor fall ill, the course will immediately move online.

4. What do I do if I think I might be sick?
   - If you have been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or if you feel unwell, please stay home; online lectures will be made available.
   - If you have been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or if you feel unwell, input this information into the wellness screening app to help the university keep up-to-date information about the health of the Ram Family.
   - Students who need additional screening can download and use the Shannon on Demand app to receive medical advice and to determine whether or not they need to be tested.
   - If you are living on campus and need to self-isolate, you may be moved from your residence hall to a self-isolation location on campus until you have met the CDC recovery guidelines.

Students must regularly check email and Blackboard for any changes that arise. Should it become necessary, courses may have to go online. The professors or department chairs will provide all relevant information in such a case.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON REQUIRED USE OF MASKS/FACIAL COVERINGS

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (08/18 – 08/20)
  Topic: Syllabus + Introduction to Environmental History

Week 2 (08/25 – 08/27)
  Topic: Deconstructing the Environmental Indian
  Assignment: Reflection 1

Week 3 (09/01 – 09/03)
  Topic: The Ecology of European Contact
  Assignment: Reflection 2

Week 4 (09/08 – 09/10)
  Topic: An Ecological History of the English Colonies
  Assignment: Ecological Imperialism book review

Week 5 (09/15 – 09/17)
  Topic: Agrarianism and Expansion in the Early Republic
  Assignment: Primary Source 1

Week 6 (09/22 – 09/24)
  Topic: Industrialization and Urbanization in the Early Republic
  Assignment: Primary Source 2

Week 7 (09/29 – 10/01)
  Topic: Romanticism, the Sublime & the Civil War
  Assignment: War upon the Land book review

Week 8 (10/06 – 10/08)
  Midterm Exam

Week 9 (10/13 – 10/15)
  Topic: Settling & Extracting Trans-Mississippi West
  Assignment: Primary Source 3

Week 10 (10/20 – 10/22)
  Topic: Conservation: Urban Clean-up, Resource Conservation & Wilderness Preservation
  Assignment: Primary Source 4

Week 11 (10/27 – 10/29)
  Topic: The Great Depression, the Dust Bowl & the New Deal
  Assignment: Reflection 3
Week 12 (11/03 – 11/05)
Topic: The Go-Go Years of Dam-Building
Assignment: *The Organic Machine* book review

Week 13 (11/10 – 11/12)
Topic: Post-War Environmental Concerns in America
Assignment: Reflection 4

Week 14 (11/17 – 11/19)
Topic: Wrapping it Up

**FINAL EXAM**: due by Tuesday, November 24 at 11:59 pm