

### **Week 1 (Aug 11): Introduction**

*What are the characteristics of environmental history and world history?  
What are the characteristics of world or global environmental history?*

Hughes, J. Donald. 2006. "Defining Environmental History." In *What is Environmental History?*, 1–17 Cambridge: Polity. GF13.H893w.

Bayly, C. A., Sven Beckert, Matthew Connelly, Isabel Hofmeyr, Wendy Kozol, and Patricia Seed. 2006. "AHR Conversation: On Transnational History." *The American Historical Review* 111 (5): 1441–1464. doi: 10.1086/ahr.111.5.1441.

Christian, David. 2011. "World Environmental History." In *The Oxford Handbook of World History*, edited by Jerry H. Bentley. Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199235810.013.0008.

Corona, Gabriella. 2008. "What is Global Environmental History? Conversation with Piero Bevilacqua, Guillermo Castro, Ranjan Chakrabarti, Kobus du Pisani, John R. McNeill and Donald Worster." *Global Environment* 1 (2): 228–249. doi: 10.3197/ge.2008.010213.

### **Week 2 (Aug 18): Western Attitudes Towards Nature**

*What are the Western attitudes toward nature throughout history and how did they come about?*

Coates, Peter A. 1998. *Nature: Western Attitudes since Ancient Times*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 1, pp.1–22. QH81.C652.

White, Lynn, Jr. 1967. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis." *Science* 155: 1203–1207. <http://www.istor.org/stable/1720120>.

Glacken, Clarence J. 1967. *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought from Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Conclusion, pp.706–713.

Lewis, Michael. 2014. "And All Was Light?—Science and Environmental History." In *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*, edited by Andrew C. Isenberg. Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195324907.013.0008. (17)

### **Week 3 (Aug 25): Big History and the Anthropocene and how to do environmental history**

*What value does the Big History Framework bring to the field of world environmental history? Should we rename our current epoch from the Holocene to the Anthropocene?*

Christian, David. 2011. *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 1, 3–5.

Available as an e-book at  
<http://ezlibproxy1.ntu.edu.sg/login?url=http://portal.igpublish.com/iglibrary/search/UCPB0001160.html>

Steffen, Will, Jacques Grinevald, Paul Crutzen, and John R. McNeill. 2011. “The Anthropocene: Conceptual and Historical Perspectives.” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences* 369 (1938): 842–867.

Cronon, William. “Learning to Do Historical Research: A Primer for Environmental Historians and Others.”  
<http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/>

Worster, Donald. 1988. “Appendix: Doing Environmental History.” In *The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History*, edited by Donald Worster, 289–307. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### **Week 4 (Sep 1): Ecological Imperialism**

*What are the roles of the agency of humans and that of nature in the history of Western imperialism? How did Australia, Canada, the United States, and New Zealand come to be what it is today?*

Crosby, Alfred W. 2004. *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900–1900*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Prologue and chapter 1 (pp. 1–40); chapters 7–9 (145–216); chapters 11 “Explanations” (269–293) and 12 “Conclusion” (294–308).

GF50.C949, e-book also available at  
<http://ezlibproxy1.ntu.edu.sg/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CB09780511805554>

#### **Week 5 (Sep 8): Geographical Determinism**

*Same as Week 4, above. Also, how do Crosby and Diamond compare with each other in terms of argument and methods? Which do you find more convincing?*

Diamond, Jared M. 2005. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.  
Chapters 4–10 (85–191); epilogue (405–425). HM206.D537 2005

### **Week 6 (Sep 15): The Tropics**

*How is studying the tropical zone or non-Western environments different from studying the First-World temperate zone?*

Sutter, Paul S. 2003. "What Can U.S. Environmental Historians Learn from Non-U.S. Environmental Historiography?" *Environmental History* 8 (1): 109–129. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3985974>.

Sutter, Paul S. 2007. "Nature's Agents or Agents of Empire? Entomological Workers and Environmental Change during the Construction of the Panama Canal." *Isis* 98 (4): 724–754. doi: 10.1086/529265.

Sutter, Paul S. 2014. "The Tropics: A Brief History of an Environmental Imaginary." In *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*, edited by Andrew C. Isenberg. Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195324907.013.0007.

### **Week 7 (Sep 22): Agriculture and Water**

*What are the environmental impact of agriculture and water consumption?*

McNeill, chapters 5 (30), 6 (42), 7 (36).

In-class film: *Darwin's Nightmare*

### **Week 8 (Oct 6): Climate and Air**

*How have human societies been affected by climatic changes? How did humans understand and respond to these changes?*

McNeill, chapters 3 (33) and 4 (30).

Carey, Mark. 2014. "Beyond Weather: The Culture and Politics of Climate History." In *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*, edited by Andrew C. Isenberg. Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195324907.013.0001. (23)

Cao, Shuji, Yushang Li, and Bin Yang. 2012. "Mt. Tambora, Climatic Changes, and China's Decline in the Nineteenth Century." *Journal of World History* 23 (3): 587–607.

In-class film: *The Island President*

### **Week 9 (Oct 13): The Modern World - Drivers of Change and Attitudes towards the Environment**

*What are the characteristics of the modern world and what are some of the consequences for the environment and people? What is environmentalism, and how is it manifested differently in the developed and developing worlds?*

Marks, Robert B. 2012. "The (Modern) World since 1500." In *A Companion to Global Environmental History*, edited by John Robert McNeill and Erin Stewart Mauldin, 57–78. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. doi: 10.1002/9781118279519.ch4.

Guha, Part 1 (63)

McNeill, chapter 10 (29)

### **Week 10 (Oct 20): Environmentalism**

*What are some of the historical efforts to address our environmental predicament, and how effective have they been?*

Guha, Part 2 (63)

McNeill, chapter 11 (29)

In-class film: Warriors of Qiugang  
[http://e360.yale.edu/feature/the\\_warriors\\_of\\_qiugang\\_a\\_chinese\\_village\\_fights\\_back/2358/](http://e360.yale.edu/feature/the_warriors_of_qiugang_a_chinese_village_fights_back/2358/)

### **Week 11 (Oct 27): China - Part I**

*How is the environmental history of China different from that of other countries?*

McNeill, J. R. 1998. "China's Environmental History in World Perspective." In *Sediments of Time: Environment and Society in Chinese History*, edited by Mark Elvin and Ts'ui-jung Liu, 31–49. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grumbine, Introduction and Chapters 1–4, pp.3–82.

### **Week 12 (Nov 3): China - Part II**

*What kind of environmental history is China creating? What is the role of population here?*

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Grumbine, pp.83–159.

Greenhalgh, Susan. 2003. "Science, Modernity, and the Making of China's One-Child Policy." *Population and Development Review* 29 (2): 163-196.

In-class film: Manufactured Landscapes

### **Week 13 (Nov 10): Reflection – The Role of Humans on Planet Earth**

*How can we characterize human presence on the planet?*

Weisman, Alan. 2008. *The World Without Us*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press.  
Chapters 12–16, pp.171–232. (The prelude and chapter 3 in the pdf file are for your interest.)  
GF75.W428 2008

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. 2009. "The Climate of History: Four Theses." *Critical Inquiry* 35 (2): 197–222. doi: 10.1086/596640.