

YORK UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of History
2009-2010 Winter Term

HISTORY 3280 3.0A (W)

EUROPEANS AND THE NATURAL WORLD TO 1800

Tues 1230-1420 in Accolade East 003 AND Thurs 1230-1320 in Stedman E

Professor R. Hoffmann, Course Director: office 2160 Vari Hall

Office hours Tuesdays 1430-1630 or by prior appointment.

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History 3280 web site: <http://www.yorku.ca/uhistory/undergraduate/courses/3280/index.html>

An advanced undergraduate history course, History 3280 examines interactions between humans cultures and natural systems in western civilization from the retreat of the Pleistocene ice cap from Europe up to introduction of a social metabolism based on energy from fossil fuels. It is, therefore, a course in environmental history, an approach which treats the natural world and humans as participating together in the story of the planet.

History 3280 meets twice a week, first for a 2-hour lecture on the week's theme, then two days later for a 1-hour opportunity to discuss the lecture and assigned readings. After the first week of class **students are expected to have studied most of the week's reading assignment before the Tuesday lecture and to have completed it by the Thursday class session.** The course begins with a brief introduction to ecological and historical concepts essential to the field and subsequent topics follow a roughly chronological and thematic sequence. The principal weight of coverage (6 of 12 weeks) is on the period between roughly 900 and 1600, preceded by work on classical antiquity and followed by study of changes toward modernity.

Readings

All readings shown in the syllabus are assigned as required.

Orders for the following items have been placed with the York University Bookstore.

Hughes, J. Donald. What is Environmental History?. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006.
Paperback ISBN-13 978-07456-3189-9

Coates, Peter A. Nature : Western attitudes since ancient times. Berkeley : University of California Press, 1998. Paperback ISBN 0520-24478-8

Hughes, J. Donald. Pan's Travail: Environmental Problems of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.. Paperback ISBN 978-0-8018-5363-0

Course Kit History 3280 (2009-2010 winter)

Thirteen (13) items are available on line or as EJOURNALS or EBOOKS through York University Libraries.

Weekly assigned readings range from 167 to 58 pages and average 130 pages. Students are also expected each week to go out and find for themselves additional relevant scholarly reading materials of interest (see assignments and evaluation below).

Assignments and Evaluation

20% Book review: An essay of 400-600 words describing and analyzing an entire scholarly book relevant to the subject of the course (but not assigned readings), to be submitted any time between the fifth and ninth week of class (i.e. **4 February through 11 March**). [See separate guidelines on book reviews to be distributed]

40% Reading log: A **cumulative reading journal** comprising a dated paragraph of reaction and assessment on each of ten (10) substantial (≥ 15 pages) items from assigned readings and on each of ten (10) substantial outside items, with at least one entry compiled each week, followed by a page or two of concluding reflection on the entire reading experience. Due after the end of the course (**7 April 2010**). [See separate guidelines on reading logs to be distributed]

A interim edition of the reading log containing 3 entries only is due in class on Thursday 28 January 2010. This will be marked and graded for a **provisional 10% of the course mark**. The interim edition may subsequently be revised before it becomes part of the final edition. If the final edition receives a higher mark, that higher mark supersedes the provisional grade.

40% Final examination on topics covered in lectures and assigned readings at a date, time, and place to be set by the Registrar's office. The examination will consist of each student's choices from several exam essay questions taken from a set of study questions to be distributed at the final class meeting on 1 April 2010.

Marking Standards and Definition of grades

Grades in History 3280 are those common to undergraduate faculties at York University. Letter grades are official and definitive; percentages serve only to combine and average several graded elements in a single course or assignment.

A+	exceptional (beyond factors 1-6)	90-100	C	fairly competent (factors 1-4)	60-64
A	excellent (factors 1-6)	80-89	D+	passing (factors 1-3)	55-59
B+	very good (factors 1-5)	75-79	D	barely passing (factors 1-2)	50-54
B	good (factors 1-5)	70-74	E	marginally failing	40-49
C+	competent (factors 1-4)	65-69	F	failing	<40

Factors to be considered in evaluating student performance:

Group I: Criteria to be satisfied for work to be rated C+ (competent)

- 1) Understanding the assignment
- 2) Organization of material (exhibiting a sense of the relative importance of data, observations, criticisms, etc., and avoiding irrelevancies)
- 3) Articulate expression (saying what one means)
- 4) Presenting a case (making a point rather than just writing descriptively)

Group II: Additional criteria which should be satisfied to warrant a grade of B (good) or higher .

- 5) Superior grasp of concepts essential to the topic or discipline.
- 6) Superior grasp of the methodology required to think systematically.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students in History 3280 are expected to know and observe the standards of Academic Honesty normal to intellectual activity in general and York University in particular. Violations of the York Senate Policy on Academic Honesty will be treated severely. Recent penalties have included failure in the course, suspension from the University, and withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma, or certificate. Cheating during in-class or take-home examinations, collaborating on written assignments [except with the explicit advance permission of the responsible instructor], failing to use quotation marks and citations when using or paraphrasing the printed or electronically-transmitted work of others, submitting work purchased from or written by someone else, reproducing work submitted in another course, aiding or abetting academic misconduct, and violating any other part of the Policy on Academic Honesty will result in penalties. For further information, see

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhone.htm>.

Put most simply and personally, take responsibility for your own work and present no one else's words or ideas as your own.

University Regulations set Important Dates for Students to Observe:

First day of winter term classes: 4 January 2010

The last date you can

enroll in this course without the permission of the Course Director is 19 January

enroll in this course with the permission of the Course Director is 3 February

drop a winter term half course without receiving a grade is **8 March 2010**

submit term work for grading is **7 April 2010**

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND READINGS

- Week 1** **Jan 5 / 7 Course Introduction**
 Hughes, What is Environmental History?. BOOKSTORE
 Coates, Nature, 1-22. BOOKSTORE
 Winiwarter, Verena. "Approaches to Environmental History: A Field Guide to Its Concepts," in
 József Laszlovszky and Péter Szabó, eds. People and Nature in Historical Perspective, 3-
 22. Budapest: Central European University, Department of Medieval Studies, and
 Archaeolingua: 2003. kit
- Week 2** **Jan 12 / 14 The Holocene**
 Dickinson, William R. "Changing Times. The Holocene Legacy", Environmental History, 5
 (2000), 483-502. ejournal
 Whited, Tamara, *et al.*. Northern Europe: an Environmental History, 1-39. Santa Barbara: ABC-
 Clio, 2005. kit
- Week 3** **Jan 19 / 21 Europe in Classical Mediterranean Civilization**
 Hughes, Pan's Travail, chapters 1-4 and 8. BOOKSTORE
 Coates, Nature, 23-39. BOOKSTORE
- Week 4** **Jan 26 / 28 The Sustainability of Classical Civilization** 108
 Hughes, Pan's Travail, chapters 5-7 and 9-11. BOOKSTORE
- Interim edition of reading log is due in class or by 4pm in 2160 Vari Hall for a provisional
 10% of the course grade (see p. 2 above)**
- Week 5** **Feb 2 / 4 Barbarian Europe and Environmental Change in Late Antiquity (ca.400-900)**
 Whited *et al.*, Northern Europe, pp. 39-51. kit
 Cheyette, Frederic L. "The disappearance of the ancient landscape and the climatic anomaly of
 the early Middle Ages: a question to be pursued," Early Medieval Europe, 16 (2008),
 127-165. ejournal
 Squatriti, Paolo. "The wet and the dry: water in agriculture," in his Water and society in early
 medieval Italy, AD400-1000, 66-96. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998. kit
 Pearson, Kathy L. "Nutrition and the Early-Medieval Diet," Speculum, 72 (1997), 1-32. JSTOR
 Sonnlechner, Christoph. "The Establishment of New Units of Production in Carolingian Times:
 Making early medieval sources relevant for environmental history," Viator, 35 (2004),
 21-48. kit
- Feb 4 Book Review assignment may be submitted for 20% of course grade (see p. 2 above)**
- Week 6** **Feb 9 / 11 Humankind and God's Creation in Medieval Minds**
 White, L. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis" pp. 75-94 in his Dynamo and Virgin

- Reconsidered. Cambridge, 1968, and later editions. **kit**
- Whitney, E. "Lynn White, Ecotheology, and History," Environmental Ethics, 15 (1993), 151-169. **kit**
- Coates, Nature, 48-66. **BOOKSTORE**
- Gurevich, A., "Popular Culture in the Mirror of the Penitentials," in his Medieval Popular Culture: Problems of Belief and Perception, 78-103. Tr. J. Bak and P. Hollingsworth. Cambridge, 1988. **kit**
- Cohen, E. "Animals in medieval perceptions." in A. Manning and J. Serpall, eds. Animals and Human Society, 59-80. London and New York, 1994. **kit**
- Kiser, Lisa J. "The Garden of St. Francis: Plants, Landscape, and Economy in Thirteenth-Century Italy," Environmental History, 8 (2003), 229-245. **EJOURNAL**

READING WEEK

- Week 7** **Feb 23 / 25 Medieval Land Use and the Formation of Traditional European Landscapes**
- Coates, Nature, 40-46. **BOOKSTORE**
- Watson, A. M. "Toward Denser and More Continuous Settlement: New Crops and Farming Techniques in the Early Middle Ages," in J. A. Raftis, ed., Pathways to Medieval Peasants, 65-82. Toronto, 1981. **kit**
- TeBrake, W. "Ecology of Village Settlement in the Dutch Rijnland," in J. A. Raftis, ed., Pathways to Medieval Peasants, 3-26. Toronto, 1981. **kit**
- Crook, D. S., D. J. Siddle, J. A. Dearing, and R. Thompson. "Human Impact on the Environment in the Annecy Petit Lac Catchment, Haute Savoie: A Documentary Approach," Environment and History, 10 (2004), 247-284. **EJOURNAL**
- Williamson, Tom. "Landscape, Society, and Environment," in his Shaping Medieval Landscapes: Settlement, Society, Environment, 180-199. Macclesfield, Cheshire: Windgather Press, 2003. **kit**
- Rackham, O. "The Medieval Countryside of England: Botany and Archaeology," in J. Howe and M. Wolfe, eds. Inventing Medieval Landscapes: Senses of Place in Western Europe, 13-32. Gainesville etc.: University Press of Florida, 2002. **kit**
- Piccinni, G. "Economy and Society in Southern Tuscany in the Late Middle Ages: Amiata and the Maremma," in Thomas W. Blomquist and Maureen F. Mazzaoui, eds., The "Other Tuscany": Essays in the History of Lucca, Pisa, and Siena During the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Centuries, 215-233. Studies in Medieval Culture, 34. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1994. **kit**
- Week 8** **Mar 2 / 4 Medieval Use, Management, and Sustainability of Local Ecosystems, 1: Primary Biological Production Sectors.**
- Winiwarter, Verena. "Agro-Ecological History. Intrinsic Resource Problems of Solar-Based Societies," in B. Benzing and B. Herrmann, eds., Exploitation and Overexploitation in Societies Past and Present, 81-100. IUAES-Intercongress 2001 Göttingen. Münster: LIT Verlag, 2003. **kit**
- H. S. A. Fox, "Some Ecological Dimensions of Medieval Field Systems," in K. Biddick, ed., Archaeological Approaches to Medieval Europe, 119-158. Studies in Medieval Culture,

18. Kalamazoo, 1984. **kit**
- Pretty, J. "Sustainable Agriculture in the Middle Ages on the English Manor," Agricultural History Review, 38 (1990), 1-19. **kit**
- Dam, P. J.E.M. van "Sinking Peat Bogs. Environmental Change in Holland, 1350-1550," Environmental History, 6 (2001), 32-45. **JSTOR**
- Hüster-Plogmann, Heide, and André Rehazek, "1000 years (6th to 16th century) of Economic Life in the Heart of Europe. Common and Distinct Trends in Cattle Economy of the Baltic Sea Region and the Swiss Region of the Alpine Forelands," Archaeofauna, 8 (1999), 123-133. **kit**
- Coates, Nature, 46-48 [woods] **BOOKSTORE**
- Salvestrini, F. "Law, Forest Resources and Management of Territory in the Later Middle Ages: Woodlands in Tuscan Municipal Statutes," in Mauro Agnoletti and Steven Anderson, eds., Forest History: International Studies on Socio-Economic and Forest Ecosystem Change, Report No. 2 of the IURFRO Task Force on Environmental Change, 279-286. Wallingford: CABI, 2000. **kit**
- Sykes, N. J. "The Impact of the Normans on Hunting Practices in England," in C. M. Woolgar, D. Serjeantson, and T. Waldron, eds., Food in Medieval England. Diet and Nutrition, 162-175. Oxford: OUP, 2006. **kit**
- EITHER
- Hoffmann, R. "A brief history of aquatic resource use in medieval Europe" in Heike K. Lotze and Karsten Reise, eds., Helgoland Marine Research, 59:1 (April 2005) [special issue 'Ecological history of the Wadden Sea'], 22-30. **EJOURNAL**
- OR
- Hoffmann, R. "Medieval Europeans and their Aquatic Ecosystems" in Bernd Herrmann, ed. Beiträge zum Göttinger Umwelthistorischen Kolloquium 2007-2008, 45-64. Graduiertenkolleg Interdisziplinäre Umweltgeschichte . Göttingen: Universitätsverlag, 2008 [access online http://webdoc.sub.gwdg.de/univerlag/2008/umweltkolloquium_2.pdf]

Week 9 Mar 9 / 11 Medieval Use, Management, and Sustainability of Local Ecosystems, 2: Interactions with the Non-Living Environment

- Smil, Vaclav. Energy in World History, chapter 4 (92-156). Boulder, Colorado: Westview Pr., 1994. **kit**
- Beck, Patrice, Philippe Braunstein, and Michel Philippe. "Wood, iron, and water in the Othe Forest in the Late Middle Ages." In Elizabeth B. Smith and Michael Wolfe, eds., Technology and Resource Use in Medieval Europe: Cathedrals, Mills and Mines, 173-184. London: Ashgate, 1997 **kit**
- Kucher, Michael P. "The Use of Water and its Regulation in Medieval Siena," Journal of Urban History, 31 (2005), 504-536. **EJOURNAL**
- Hoffmann, Richard C. "Footprint Metaphor and Metabolic Realities: Environmental Impacts of Medieval European Cities," in Paolo Squatriti, ed., Natures Past: The Environment and Human History, 288-325. The Comparative Studies in Society and History book series. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007. **kit**

March 11 is the last chance to turn in the Book Review for 20% of the course grade (see p. 2 above)

- Week 10 Mar 16 / 18 Nature is a Player: Pathogenic Disease and Changing Climate in Medieval and Early Modern Europe**
- Cohn, Samuel K., Jr. "The Black Death: End of a Paradigm," American Historical Review, 107 (2002), 703-738. **JSTOR**
- Glaser, Rüdiger, and Dirk Riemann, "A thousand-year record of temperature variations for Germany and Central Europe based on documentary data," Journal of Quaternary Science, 24:5 (2009), 437-449. **EJOURNAL**
- Fagan, Brian. The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History, 1300-1850, chapters 2-3 and 5 (pp. 23-60 and 79-100). New York: Basic Books, 2000. **kit**
- Ogilvie, Astrid E. J., and Thomas H. McGovern, "Sagas and Science: Climate and Human Impacts in the North Atlantic," in William W. Fitzhugh and Elizabeth. Ward, eds. Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga, 385-393. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000. **kit**
- Bowlus, C. "Ecological Crisis in fourteenth century Europe," in Lester J. Bilsky, ed., Historical Ecology. Essays on Environment and Social Change, 86-99. Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1980. **GF13 H57 on Scott Reserve AND EBOOK**
- Week 11 Mar 23 / 25 The Columbian Exchange in context of cultural and material change in Europe**
- Coates, Nature, chapters 4-6 (pp. 67-119) **BOOKSTORE**
- Crosby, Alfred W. "A Renaissance Change in European Cognition," Environmental History Review, 14:1-2 (1990), 19-32. **JSTOR**
- Schlesinger, Roger. In the Wake of Columbus: The Impact of the New World on Europe, 1492-1650, 92-121. 2d ed. rev. Wheeling, Ill.: Harlan Davidson, 2007 **kit**
- Whited, Tamara, *et al.*. Northern Europe, chapter 4 (73-102). **kit**
- Week 12 Mar 30 The Great Transition: Industrialization in Ecological Perspective**
- Richards, John F. "Landscape Change and Energy Transformation in the British Isles," in his The Unending Frontier: An Environmental History of the Early Modern World, 193-241. Berkeley: U. of California Press, 2003. **GF 13 R53 2003 on Scott Reserve AND EBOOK**
- Malanima, Paolo. "The energy basis for early modern growth, 1650-1820" in Maarten Praak, ed. Early Modern Capitalism. Economic and Social Change in Europe, 1400-1800, 51-68. London: Routledge, 2001. **kit**
- Sieferle, Rolf P. The Subterranean Forest: Energy Systems and the Industrial Revolution, 138-180. Cambridge: White Horse Press, 2001. **kit**
- April 1 Course Conclusion**
Distribution of study questions for final examination
- April 7 (Wednesday) Reading Log due** in 2160 Vari Hall by 4pm for 40% of course grade .
NO EXTENSIONS. (Final deadline for submission of term work in the Faculty.)
- TBA Course final examination** [40% of course grade]