

HISTORY 398, Section 008

Environmental History in Global Perspective

Mondays 2:00-4:30pm Hamilton Hall 517

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Hamilton Hall 513	Office Hours Monday. 1:00-3:30pm	Telephone 962-5057

Course Description and Objectives

This seminar in history is designed to provide students with the experience of planning and carrying out their own research projects and to open discussions on a variety of topics that are central to environmental history. Its main geographic focus begins in Latin America and extends to other world regions, including North America, South Asia, and Africa. Environmental history is an emerging field with strong linkages to geography, ecology, and anthropology as well as to the interdisciplinary field of environmental studies. Environmental history helps us understand changes in the land as well as issues of survival, sustainability, conflict, and cooperation among different peoples, power brokers, and economic sectors in society.

In order to fulfill these objectives, we shall organize the seminar around the following goals:

- To work together to improve our critical reading, discussion, presentation, and writing skills
- To explore environmental history along themes of geography, economy, culture, and ecology
- To develop research techniques and build a common database of sources and bibliography
- To think about comparative history across geographic regions and time periods

To reach these goals, we shall work together to create a community in which students feel comfortable sharing their ideas with mutual respect and constructive criticism. Class participation, requiring skills for both listening and building a dialogue, will be essential for the success of our seminar and for student evaluation. Attendance is mandatory and we will work through each class session as well as the Sakai course website.