Environmental Humanities Courses
Spring 2019
Yale University
The Environmental Humanities at Yale

Humanity’s relationship with the natural world is deeply shaped by history, culture, social relationships, and values. Society’s environmental challenges often have their roots in how people relate to each other and how we think about environmental problems and even “the environment” itself.

The Yale Environmental Humanities Initiative aims to deepen our understanding of the ways that culture is intertwined with nature. Faculty and students from diverse disciplines and programs across the university together can pursue a broad interdisciplinary conversation about humanity and the fate of the planet.

Each academic year, Yale offers dozens of courses that approach environmental issues from a broad range of humanities perspectives. Some of the courses are entirely focused on the environment and the humanities; others approach the environmental humanities as one of several integrated themes. This accompanying list provides a guide to course offerings for the Spring 2019 semester.

Undergraduate Courses

Graduate Courses

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Undergraduate Courses

**AMST, ANTH, ARCG, ARCH, EAST, ENGL, ER&M, EVST, F&ES, HIST, HSAR, HSHM, LITR, PLSC, WGSS**

AMST 258 01 (22914) /EVST 258
**Wilderness in the North American Imagination**
Yuhe Wang
T 1.30-3.20
Areas Hu
1 HTBA
The idea and practice of wilderness in American history, art, literature, society, and politics. Authors include Salomon Northup, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Jack London, Aldo Leopold, and Rachel Carson. A class dinner and field trip are held during the term.

AMST 304 01 (20863) /EVST 352
**Food and Documentary**
Ian Cheney
W 1.30-3.20
Areas Hu
Survey of contemporary public debates and current scientific thinking about how America farms and eats explored through the medium of documentary film. Includes a brief history of early food and agrarian documentaries, with a focus on twenty-first century films that consider sustainable food.

AMST 331 01 (23432)
**Photographing the City: Urban Pictures, Urban Places**
Kristin Hankins
W 3.30-5.20
How do we see places? How do we see boundaries? How do our practices of looking reproduce, complicate, and transform places? This junior seminar explores these questions through an engagement with American urban places and analysis of their representations throughout the 20th century, beginning with photography at the turn of the century and ending with contemporary social practice art projects. We analyze the relationship between visual culture and public space; the ways in which urban visual culture conceals and reveals power dynamics; and different ways of approaching, engaging, and representing urban places. The primary objective is to foster critical engagement with urban space and its representations—to develop an analytical framework which grounds exploration of the impact of representational strategies on experiences of space and vice versa.

ANTH 375 01 (22372) /ARCG 375/ARCG 379
**Anthropology of Mobile Societies**
William Honeychurch
F 9.25-11.15
Areas So
The social and cultural significance of the ways that hunter-gatherers, pastoral nomads, maritime traders, and members of our own society traverse space. The impact of mobility and transport technologies on subsistence, trade, interaction, and warfare from the first horse riders of five thousand years ago to jet-propulsion tourists of today.

ANTH 399 01 (20455)
**The Anthropology of Outer Space**
Lisa Messeri
MW 2.30-3.45
Areas So
Examination of the extraterrestrial through consideration of ideas in anthropology and aligned disciplines. Students discuss, write, and think about outer space as anthropologists and find the value of exploring this topic scientifically, socially, and philosophically.
ANTH 414 01 (20456) /EAST 417
Hubs, Mobilities, and World Cities
Helen Siu
T 1:30-3:20
Areas So
Analysis of urban life in historical and contemporary societies. Topics include capitalist and postmodern transformations; class, gender, ethnicity, and migration; and global landscapes of power and citizenship.

ANTH 473 01 (20867) /EVST 473/ARCG 473/NELC 473
Abrupt Climate Change and Societal Collapse
Harvey Weiss
Th 3:30-5:20
Areas Hu, So
The coincidence of societal collapses throughout history with decadal and century-scale drought events. Challenges to anthropological and historical paradigms of cultural adaptation and resilience. Examination of archaeological and historical records and high-resolution sets of paleoclimate proxies.

ARCG 492 01 (20469) /ANTH 492/NELC 321
Imaging Ancient Worlds
Roderick McIntosh
John Darnell
Agnete Lassen
W 9:25-11:15
The interpretation of epigraphic and archaeological material within the broader context of landscape, by means of creating a virtual model to reconstruct the sensory experiences of the ancient peoples who created those sites. Use of new technologies in computer graphics, including 3D imaging, to support current research in archaeology and anthropology.

ARCH 280 01 (22421) /AMST 197/HSAR 219
American Architecture and Urbanism
Elihu Rubin
MW 11:35-12:50
Areas Hu
1 HTBA
Introduction to the study of buildings, architects, architectural styles, and urban landscapes, viewed in their economic, political, social, and cultural contexts, from precolonial times to the present. Topics include: public and private investment in the built environment; the history of housing in America; the organization of architectural practice; race, gender, ethnicity and the right to the city; the social and political nature of city building; and the transnational nature of American architecture.

EAST 404 01 (23249) /EVST 403
The City in Modern East Asia
Faculty TBD
M 3:30-5:20
Areas Hu
Cities in East Asia developed into cosmopolitan urban centers in the modern era. They hosted encounters with Western empires and witnessed the rise of new forms of participatory politics; they not only reflected the broader efforts of their respective nation-states to modernize and industrialize, but also produced violent reactions against state regimes. They served as nodes in networks of migrants, commerce, and culture that grew more extensive in the modern era. In these ways, the history of East Asian urbanism is the history of the fluidity and dynamism of urban society and politics in the context of an increasingly interconnected modern world. We study cosmopolitan cities across East Asia from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the present day. A comparative approach allows us to explore both general trends and themes, and distinct historical experiences across the countries of the region. Specific seminar topics include: urban politics, including state-society relations; cities as sites of geopolitical and imperial encounters; changes in urban society, including the impact of migration and social conflict; the urban environment, including natural and man-made disasters; urban planning, at the local, national and transnational scale; and ways of visualizing the city.
ENGL 430 01 (20823) /AMST 425/EVST 430
American Culture and the Rise of the Environment
Michael Warner
W 1.30-3.20
Skills WR
Areas Hu
U.S. literature from the late eighteenth century to the Civil War explored in the context of climate change. Development of the modern concept of the environment; the formation and legacy of key ideas in environmentalism; effects of industrialization and national expansion; utopian and dystopian visions of the future.

ENGL 026 01 (23166)
Poetics of Place: Literature in/of Connecticut
Alanna Hickey
MW 1.00-2.15
Skills WR
Areas Hu
This course investigates the ways literature structures our encounter with our surroundings in both obvious and imperceptible ways, settling into the literary past and present of Connecticut. Inquiries span the role of narrative in our comprehension of place, the persistence of particular historical accounts at the expense of others, and our ethical obligation to the territories we survive upon. Readings include Indigenous texts, political documents, nature writing, dystopic fiction, ecocriticism, and travel memoir. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

ENGL 114 (24420)
Writing Seminars: Logistics of Climate Change
Timothy Kreiner
TTH 11:35am – 12:50pm
According to the World Bank, an increase in global temperatures of more than 2°C by the year 2100 will likely submerge coastal cities from New York to Shanghai beneath rising seas. Yet as many theorists note, the global supply chains the World Bank helps facilitate also fuel global warming. How do we make sense of economic institutions warning us of disasters their actions may hasten? Why is there so much disagreement among scholars concerning the quickening pace of climate change alongside the emergence of supposedly post-industrial economies in the developed world? And what can we do about that pace today? This class surveys two sweeping transformations of social life in recent decades to pose such questions. Climate change, we will wager, can't be understood apart from the logistics revolution that made globalization
possible: The massive freeway systems, ports, algorithms, microprocessors, and container ships transporting goods and money from one corner of the globe to another. Along the way we will pay particular attention to the uneven racial and gender dynamics governing who lives where and acquires what they need to survive how in a world arranged by the logistics revolution driving climate change today.

ENGL 115 02 (22472)
Literature Seminars: Writing the Asian Diaspora
Scarlet Luk
TTh 11.35-12.50
Skills WR
Areas Hu
Exploration of major themes in selected works of literature. Individual sections focus on topics such as war, justice, childhood, sex and gender, the supernatural, and the natural world. Emphasis on the development of writing skills and the analysis of fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction prose.

ENGL 237 01 (20809) /EVST 237
Animals in Literature and Theory
Jonathan Kramnick
TTh 2.30-3.45
Skills WR
Areas Hu
Consideration of the role animals play in our aesthetic, ethical, political, and scientific worlds through reading of fiction, poetry, philosophy, and critical theory. Topics include: animal sentience and experience; vegetarianism; animal fables; pet keeping; animals alongside disability, race, and gender; and the representation of animal life in the visual arts.

ENGL 252 (22571)
Poets and Painters: Wordsworth, Constable, Byron, Turner
Paul Fry
Th 3:30pm-5:20pm
The rise of landscape in the works of Wordsworth, Constable, Byron, and Turner, with emphasis on the nonhuman in relation to consciousness and history. Some attention to the influence of earlier poetry and visual art and to effects on later painters.

ENGL 275 01 (20820)
Emerson, Dickinson, and Melville
Richard Deming
TTh 11.35-12.50
Skills WR
Areas Hu
Study of central works by three foundational writers of the nineteenth century. Cultural and historical context; questions concerning American identity, ethics, and culture, as well as the function of literature; the authors’ views on the intersections of philosophy and religious belief, culture, race, gender, and aesthetics. Readings include novels, poems, short fiction, and essays.
This course interrogates the deep historical relationship between political resistance and poetic expression within particular Indigenous communities, reading broadly on poetics and Native and Indigenous studies. Texts and inquiries span from non-alphabetic writings and Indigenous understandings of communal and political life, to the recent flourishing of formally innovative collections by Indigenous poets working on issues like climate justice, sexual violence, police brutality, and language revitalization. Poets include Heid E. Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe), Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner (Marshallese), Layli Long Soldier (Oglala Lakota), Deborah Miranda (Ohlone-Costanoan Esselen), and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Nishnaabeg).

ENGL 286 (24015)/ HUMS 462
**Elemental Media**
Skills WR
Areas Hu
John Peters
M 1:30pm-3:20pm
In this class we study a wide range of recent scholarly writings on elemental media. What does it mean to live in a moment of both carbon overload and data overload in our atmospheres? What do the environmental perplexities of our time have to do with informational ones? Students explore the links between such apparently natural phenomena as the sky, the atmosphere, the ocean, fire, or soil and such obviously unnatural ones as drones, computer networks, submarine cables, audiovisual culture, and genetic modification. It was only in the late nineteenth century that the term “media” came to refer to institutions of mass communication such as the press, film, radio, and so on and to this day the term retains its historical sense of natural habitats or environments. Media theory gives us a way to ask a question that many scholars and citizens have been posing in our moment: just what is nature in an age when human action has so radically reshaped life on Earth?

ER&M 297 01 (20892)/ AMST 371
**Food, Race, and Migration in United States Society**
Quan Tran
Areas So
Exploration of the relationship between food, race, and migration in historical and contemporary United States contexts. Organized thematically and anchored in selected case studies, this course is comparative in scope and draws from contemporary work in the fields of food studies, ethnic studies, migration studies, American studies, anthropology, and history.

EVST 273 01 (20855)
**Ecology and the Future of Life on Earth**
Oswald Schmitz
MWF 1.30-2.20
Areas So
Study of sustainability in a new epoch of human domination of Earth, known as the Anthropocene. Students will learn to think critically and construct arguments about the ecological and evolutionary interrelationship between humans and nature and gain insight on how to combine ethical reasoning with scientific principles, to ensure that species and ecosystems will thrive and persist.

F&ES 255 01 (22392)/ EVST 255/PLSC 215
**Environmental Politics and Law**
John Wargo
TTH 1.00-2.15
Areas So
Exploration of the politics, policy, and law associated with attempts to manage environmental quality and natural resources. Themes of democracy, liberty, power, property, equality, causation, and risk. Case histories include air quality, water quality and quantity, pesticides and toxic substances, land use, agriculture and food, parks and protected areas, and energy.
Political Ecology of Tropical Forest Conservation
Amity Doolittle
T 1.30-3.20
Areas So
Study of the relationship between society and the environment focusing on tropical forest conservation. Global processes of environmental conservation, development, and conflicts over natural resource use and control; approaches to conserving trees and forest cover using strategies that support biodiversity and rural agricultural livelihoods; specific focus on tropical forest landscapes dominated by agriculture and cattle ranching practices using Panama and Columbia as a case studies.

HIST 015 01 (21063)
History of Food and Cuisine
Paul Freedman
TTh 1.00-2.15
Areas Hu
The history of food from the Middle Ages to the present, with a focus on the United States and Europe. How societies gathered and prepared food; culinary tastes of different times and places. The influence of taste on trade, colonization, and cultural exchange. The impact of immigration, globalization, and technology on food. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.

HIST 104 01 (23360) / GLBL 207
The World Circa 2000
Daniel Magaziner
Samuel Moyn
MW 2.30-3.20
Areas Hu
The World Circa 2000 is a global history of the present since ~ 1960. The course moves thematically to consider topics including, decolonization and nation building in the global south, crises of nationalism and recurrent authoritarianism, the politics of aid, humanitarianism and neo-liberalism, technophilia, environmentalism and networked societies, climate change and 'free trade,' new religious fundamentalisms and imagined solidarities, celebrity, individuality, and consumerism in China, the United States, and beyond.

HIST 155 (24584)
California Capitalism
Travis Ross
TTh 11:35am - 12:25pm
This course examines the rise of California to become the world's fifth largest economy as a case study in the history of capitalism. California offers an important case study through which to think historically about the complicated relationships between the environment, globalized capitalism, national politics, and individual choices within the world economy as they have intersected in a state defined by its booms and busts. The course begins with the earliest attempts by European empires to establish a foothold on the Pacific Ocean in California and concludes with California's global hegemony as a powerhouse in cultural production, technological development, agricultural output, and environmental policy. We pay particular attention to how California's culture of entrepreneurship has created both solutions to and new problems for advancements in global hunger, environmental sustainability, income inequality, labor, and media distribution.
HIST 199 01 (21082) /AMST 236/EVST 318/HSHM 207
American Energy History
Paul Sabin
TTh 11.35-12.25
Areas Hu
1 HTBA
The history of energy in the United States from early hydropower and coal to present-day hydraulic fracturing, deepwater oil, wind, and solar. Topics include energy transitions and technological change; energy and democracy; environmental justice and public health; corporate power and monopoly control; electricity and popular culture; labor struggles; the global quest for oil; changing national energy policies; the climate crisis.

HIST 321 01 (21106)
China from Present to Past, 2015–600
Valerie Hansen
TTh 2.30-3.20
Areas Hu
Underlying causes of current issues facing China traced back to their origins in the premodern period. Topics include economic development, corruption, environmental crises, gender, and Pacific island disputes. Selected primary-source readings in English, images, videos, and Web resources. *Optional additional Chinese-language and English-language sections.

HIST 366J 01 (22628) /EVST 369
Commodities of Colonialism in Africa
Robert Harms
W 1.30-3.20
Skills WR
Areas Hu
This course examines historical case studies of several significant global commodities produced in Africa to explore interactions between world market forces and African resources and societies. Through the lens of four specific commodities—ivory, rubber, cotton, and diamonds—this course evaluates diverse industries and their historical trajectories in sub-Saharan Africa within a global context from ~1870-1990s. Students become acquainted with the historical method by developing their own research paper on a commodity using both primary and secondary sources.

HSAR 383 01 (22067)
Sacred Space in South Asia
MW 10.30-11.20
Areas Hu
1 HTBA
“Sacred” space in the Indian subcontinent was at the epicenter of human experience. This course presents Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, and Jain monuments and the gamut of social meanings and activities associated with them. Moving from the ritual spaces of the Indus Valley Culture to nineteenth-century colonial India, we learn how the organization and imagery of these spaces supported devotional activity and piety. We learn too how temples, monasteries, and shrines supported the pursuit of pleasure, amusement, sociability, and other worldly interests. We also explore the symbiotic relationship between Indian kingship and religion, and the complex ways in which politics and court culture shaped sacred environments. The course concludes with European imaginings of Indian religion and religious places.
HSHM 412 (21046)/ HIST 429J  
**Laboratory Life**  
Chitra Ramalingam  
Th 1.30-3.20  
Skills WR  
Areas Hu  
The laboratory is the iconic space of modern science, where unruly nature is tamed and controlled, and scientific facts are made. Through historical, ethnographic, and sociological approaches to lab science, this course explores how an obscure, secretive site for managing alchemical labor in medieval Europe became the globally dominant mode of producing universal experimental knowledge across the modern sciences. We consider issues of labor, skill and class; gender and race; pedagogy and the politics of profession; state, industrial, and corporate laboratories; secrecy and openness; place and geography; and the implication of labs in geopolitical webs of power, inequality, and exploitation.  
Undergraduate enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.

HSHM 415 01 (21049) /HIST 179J  
**Historical Perspectives on Science and Religion**  
Ivano Dal Prete  
W 3.30-5.20  
Skills WR  
Areas Hu  
The engagement between science and religion from a historical standpoint and a multicultural perspective. The Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian traditions; the roots of modern creationism; salvation expectations and the rise of modern science and technology. General knowledge of western and world history is expected.

HSHM 427 (25046)/HIST 187J  
**Indigenous Life, Settler Colonization, Conservation, and Medicine in 19th/20th C. Canada**  
Zoe Todd  
Th 9:25am – 11:15am  
Skills WR  
Areas Hu  
This course explores the historical trajectory of State efforts to disrupt and control Indigenous life and nonhuman life on the Plains and in the subarctic in the late 19th and early 20th century (the period 1870-1945). It explores how biomedicine, conservation, and food policies were employed as means to disrupt Indigenous self-determination and were coupled with efforts to destroy kinship relations in the North/West. This course explicitly examines science and medicine as modes of genocidal policy making and praxis in late 19th and early 20th century Canada.

HSHM 479 01 (21054) /EVST 368/HIST 491J/RLST 368  
**The History of the Earth from Noah to Darwin**  
Ivano Dal Prete  
T 1.30-3.20 Skills WR Areas Hu  
Young earth creationism and flood geology have long been among the most divisive features of American culture and politics. Yet a basic postulate is shared across the spectrum: for better or worse, the old age of the Earth is regarded as the recent product of a secular science, consistently rejected by traditional Christianity. This seminar challenges this long-established narrative, by uncovering the surprising boldness, complexity, and societal diffusion of pre-modern debates on the history of the Earth, and of humankind itself. Students have opportunity to explore the nature, assumptions, and methods of Earth sciences before the advent of modern geology, to question ingrained assumptions about their relation to religion and society, and to place outstanding issues into historical perspective. How have the great monotheistic religions dealt with the possibility of an ancient Earth? Was a young creation always important in traditional Christianity? If not, what led to the emergence of young Earth creationism as a force to be reckoned with? What are the intellectual roots of American preadamism, which claims that the black and white races were created at different times and do not descend from the same ancestor? These and other questions are addressed not only through scholarly literature in the field, but also with the analysis of literary, visual, and material sources available on campus.
HSHM 483 01 (21058)
Health, Disease, and Racial Difference in Modern America
Sakena Abedin
Th 9.25-11.15
Areas Hu
Exploration of the meanings attributed to black-white differences in health from the late-nineteenth century to the present with an emphasis on the mutual construction of race and health/disease. Topics include specific diseases, (cancer, heart disease, tuberculosis, HIV) as well as health activism, ‘health disparities’ research, and genomics.

LITR 330 01 (22575) /HUMS 330
Heidegger’s Being and Time
Martin Hägglund
MW 11.35-12.50
Areas Hu
Systematic, chapter by chapter study of Heidegger’s Being and Time, arguably the most important work of philosophy in the twentieth-century. All major themes addressed in detail, with particular emphasis on care, time, death, and the meaning of being.

PLSC 219 01 (21448) /EVST 247/EP&E 497
Politics of the Environment
Peter Swenson
Areas So
Historical and contemporary politics aimed at regulating human behavior to limit damage to the environment. Goals, strategies, successes, and failures of movements, organizations, corporations, scientists, and politicians in conflicts over environmental policy. Focus on politics in the U.S., including the role of public opinion; attention to international regulatory efforts, especially with regard to climate change.

PLSC 257 01 (23395)
Bioethics and Law
Stephen Latham
Areas Hu
The treatment by American law of major issues in contemporary biomedical ethics: informed consent, assisted reproduction, abortion, end-of-life care, research on human subjects, stem cell research, and public health law. Readings include legal cases, statutes, and regulations. No background in law assumed.

PLSC 332 01 (21457) /EP&E 299
Philosophy of Science for the Study of Politics
Hélène Landemore
Areas So
An examination of the philosophy of science from the perspective of the study of politics. Particular attention to the ways in which assumptions about science influence models of political behavior, the methods adopted to study that behavior, and the relations between science and democracy. Readings include works by both classic and contemporary authors.

WGSS 260 01 (22150)
Food, Identity and Desire
Maria Trumpler
W 9.25-11.15
Exploration of how food—ingredients, cooking practices, and appetites—can intersect with gender, ethnicity, class, and national origin to produce profound experiences of identity and desire. Sources include memoir, cookbooks, movies, and fiction.
Will technology lift all boats? Can it help address global inequalities and solve social and environmental problems? From solar power in Puerto Rico, to biometric ID cards believed to efficiently deliver welfare, to new cookstoves in India that promise to help women, how is technology imagined to furthering the project of ‘development’ that is often seen as synonymous with progress and economic growth? This course surveys a wide range of perspectives, histories, and dilemmas with the goal of understanding how to think of ‘development’ and ‘technology for development’ as subjects of study. We examine the gendered targets of development projects, as well as those who create and imagine these projects. We are especially interested in examining relations between development and economy, development and politics, development and technology. In addition to examining gender (often understood to mean just women) as a key aspect of development, this course uses a critical feminist lens to explore a range of issues, including discourses and practices of development within struggles over power, history and culture, the relation between development projects of today in relation to colonial projects and ideologies of ‘improvement’ and ‘the civilizing mission’ that were built on particularly racialized, sexualized, and gendered ideas. We also consider how the issue of gender and development has changed over time to include questions of gay rights, disability, and protections for children. In this way, we explore how ‘macro’ agendas have shaped the lives of millions of men and women living across the globe.
Graduate Courses

**ANTH, ARCG, CPLT, ENGL, F&ES, FILM, GMAN, HIST, HSAR, HSHM, REL**

**ANTH 575 01 (20457) /EAST 575**
**Hubs, Mobilities, and Global Cities**
Helen Siu
T 1.30-3.20
Analysis of urban life in historical and contemporary societies. Topics include capitalist and postmodern transformations, class, gender, ethnicity, migration, and global landscapes of power and citizenship.

**ANTH 773 01 (20868) /ARCG 773/NELC 588**
**Abrupt Climate Change and Societal Collapse**
Harvey Weiss
Th 3.30-5.20
Collapse documented in the archaeological and early historical records of the Old and New Worlds, including Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica, the Andes, and Europe. Analysis of politicoeconomic vulnerabilities, resiliencies, and adaptations in the face of abrupt climate change, anthropogenic environmental degradation, resource depletion, “barbarian” incursions, or class conflict.

**ARCG 692 01 (21773) /ANTH 692/NELC 537**
**Imaging Ancient Worlds**
Roderick McIntosh
John Darnell
Agnete Lassen
W 9.25-11.15
The interpretation of epigraphic and archaeological material within the broader context of landscape, by means of creating a virtual model to reconstruct the sensory experiences of the ancient peoples who created the sites. Use of new technologies in computer graphics, including 3-D imaging, to support current research in archaeology and anthropology.

**CSYC 403 (24532)**
**Approaches to Sustainable Food and Agriculture**
Mark Bomford
Tuesday 1:30pm-3:20pm.
Multi-disciplinary seminar on sustainable food systems. Explores multiple roots and considers possible futures of four contemporary practices which claim to enact a more sustainable approach to producing and consuming food: organic farming, local food, controlled environment agriculture and alternative proteins, and food justice / sovereignty. Includes three Friday work visits to the Yale Farm at the end of the semester.

**CPLT 699 (23708)/ HUMS 330/ LITR 330**
**Heidegger’s Being and Time**
Martin Hägglund
MW 11:35am-12:50pm
A systematic, chapter-by-chapter study of Heidegger’s Being and Time, arguably the most important work of philosophy of the twentieth century. All the major themes of the book are addressed in detail, with a particular emphasis on care, time, death, and the meaning of being.
Although the concept of the Anthropocene can be dated in various ways, two of the most important benchmarks seem to be the beginning of industrial production in the late eighteenth century and the uptick in carbon dioxide emissions from the mid-nineteenth century (petroleum came into use during the Civil War). The period between these two moments is also that in which the modern language of the environment took shape, from Cuvier’s discovery of extinction and Humboldt’s holistic earth science to the transformative work of Thoreau and George P. Marsh. This course shuttles between the contemporary debate about the significance and consequences of the Anthropocene and a reexamination of that environmental legacy. We look at the complexity of “nature,” beginning with the Bartrams, Jefferson, Cuvier, and the transatlantic literatures of natural history; georgics and other genres of nature writing; natural theology; ambiguities of pastoral in American romantic writing (Bryant, mainly); the impact of Humboldt (Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman); westward expansion and Native American writing about land; Hudson School painting and landscape architecture. We also think about the country/city polarity and the development of “grid” consciousness in places like New York City. One aim is to assess the formation and legacy of key ideas in environmentalism, some of which may now be a hindrance as much as a foundation. Secondary readings from Leo Marx, Henry Nash Smith, and William Cronon, as well as more recent attempts to reconceive environmental history (Joachim Radkau), ecocriticism (Lawrence Buell), and related fields, as well as science journalism (Elizabeth Kolbert). Students are invited to explore a wide range of research projects; and one assignment is to devise a teaching unit for an undergraduate class on the same topic.

American Energy History
Paul Sabin
TTh 11:35am-12:25pm
From the powerful winds that carried ships across the oceans to the coal and oil that fueled industrial growth, energy production and consumption have shaped American history and powered the nation’s grandest ambitions. This course examines how the American energy system evolved over time, and why. How has the struggle to control and deploy energy shaped American politics and economic development? What have been the impacts of energy transitions on social and environmental change?

Justice, Nature, and Reflective Environmental Practice Seminar
Michael Mendez
W 1.00-3.50
Nature, identity, and politics intersect in interesting ways in environmental governance. Through an interdisciplinary approach to public health, and urban and environmental studies, we examine intersectionality and the changing relationship between social systems, urbanization, biodiversity conservation, and environmental justice. Particular attention is focused on institutional values, reflective environmental practice, and how race, class, gender, and sexuality impact environmental participation and justice in the distribution of natural resources and the equitable development of cities. Students examine social theories of “nature,” as well as a range of policy responses to address environmental inequities. In the seminar, we define reflective practice as the ability to reflect on one’s professional experiences, actions,
and positionality, so as to engage in a process of continuous learning. Students focus on "reflective practice" exercises to engage in the practical and theoretical methods used in the field of environmental policy and planning to address the immediate and long-term sustainability challenges posed by global and local environmental change. Urban and sociological theories are complemented by real-world environmental controversies that require group collaboration to produce in-class presentations, role-playing negotiation case simulations, and the completion of a final research paper.

F&ES 643 01 (23282)

Managing Environment with People in Mind: Understanding Contribution of the Social Sci and Humanities
Benjamin Cashore
Meeting Info
MW 2.30-3.50
Course Description
This class focuses on three key contributions of the myriad of social science and humanities disciplines for environmental managers: 1) how to understand, and assess, the way in which different types of environmental problems emerge as concerns among society and policy makers; 2) how different societies define appropriate resource use and how "bottom up" social movements can trigger transformative change; and 3) the ways in which "top down" state and non-state governance systems develop environmental policies. To do this, the class begins, and ends, with a historical emphasis that challenges the idea that norms or ethics surrounding natural resource management are static and universal. Instead, we seek to understand why norms change, and the lessons for environmental management. The class then turns to the humanities and social science disciplines, from political philosophy to religion and the environment, in order to unpack the ways in which norms emerge among humans that can’t be reduced to purely utility enhancing explanations. The class then turns to the disciplines of anthropology and sociology to better understand the role of cultural values and power dynamics in shaping how natural resources are valued, controlled, and protected. Finally, the class turns to political science, policy sciences, and institutional analysis to understand how, in the global era, environmental policies emerge and influence critical problems facing environmental managers. As each discipline makes an enormous contribution to these questions, the class draws on two different social scientists to organize the class, and then turns to experts in particular disciplines within F&ES and Yale.

F&ES 760 01 (23305)

Conservation in Practice: An International Perspective
Amy Vedder
Albert Weber
TTh 5.30-6.50
This seminar focuses on the practice of wildlife and wildlands conservation, examining key topics from the dual perspectives of academic literature and actual field experiences; bringing together interdisciplinary thinking; and drawing on examples from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the United States. The thematic outline of the seminar is organized around three fundamental questions in nature conservation: What are we trying to save—and why? How is this being done—and how has it changed over time? What lessons are we learning—and what overarching issues remain problematic? Specific topics include how different players define and value wildness; selection and prioritization of conservation targets; comparisons of various species and landscape conservation approaches; and governance and decision-making in conservation, including ties between conservation and development and community-based conservation. During the course of the term, six to eight guest conservation practitioners join the seminar, bringing tangible examples of current practice into the classroom via presentations and discussions. Student participation and leadership are key, as the seminar is discussion-based, centers on the sharing of ideas and experiences, demands challenging thinking, and is frequently led by students. Limited enrollment. Evaluation is based on participation, comments on assigned readings, and a final paper.

F&ES 798E 01 (23311)/ MGT 682

China’s Energy and Environmental Sustainability Challenge
Angel Hsu
T 6.00-8.00
Developing solutions for global energy and climate challenges necessitates an understanding of China. This course examines China’s economic rise in the context of its energy and environment, as they relate both within China and abroad. Issues of security, the long-term sustainability of current resource consumption and growth, and the need for innovative technology and policy are all challenges China’s energy system faces. At the same time, as the world’s largest consumer of energy and emitter of greenhouse gases, China has the ability to singlehandedly shape the course of the global climate system. The environmental consequences of China’s energy consumption and growth are also critical considerations, particularly as China’s air and water pollution have become transboundary in nature. This is the first joint course offered with students at Yale-NUS College in Singapore.
Land Use Law and Environmental Planning
Marjorie Shansky
MW 4.00-5.20
This course explores the regulation by local governments of land uses in urban, rural, and suburban areas and the effect of development on the natural environment. The course helps students understand, in a practical way, how the environment can be protected through effective regulation at the local level. It introduces students to federal, state, regional, and local laws and programs that affect watershed protection and to the laws that delegate to local governments primary responsibility for decision-making in the land use field. Theories of federalism, regionalism, states’ rights, and localism are studied, as are the cases that provide a foundation in regulatory takings and the legitimate scope of land use regulation. The history of the delegation of planning and land use authority to local governments is traced, leading to an examination of local land use practices particularly as they relate to controlling development in and around watershed areas as well as regulatory response to sea-level rise and climate change. Students engage in empirical research working to identify, catalog, and evaluate innovative local laws that successfully protect environmental functions and natural resources, and the manner in which towns, particularly on the coast, incorporate climate change into their planning and regulations. Nearby watersheds are used as a context for the students’ understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of local planning and regulation. Attention is paid, in detail, to how the development of the land adversely affects natural resources and how these impacts can be mitigated through local planning and subsequent adoption of environmental regulations and regulations designed to promote sustainable development in a climate-changing world. The course includes examination of the state and local response to climate change, sea-level rise, growth management, alternatives to Euclidean zoning, low-impact development, brownfields redevelopment, energy conservation, and innovative land use strategies.

Environmental History and Values
John Grim
Mary Tucker
W 4.00-5.30
This course provides an overview of major figures, ideas, and institutions in American environmentalism. The course explores the development of environmental awareness in America as distinct historical strands with diverse ethical concerns. It begins with an examination of Native American perspectives on land and biodiversity and then focuses on writings by Thoreau and Emerson to explore early American voices in the discourse on “nature.” Readings from Pinchot, Muir, and Leopold have been selected to investigate the emergence of conservation and forest management. The beginnings of urban and park planning are considered in relation to these positions on the management of nature. Students survey the environmental movements from the 1960s onward in readings from the social sciences and humanities. The course explores the major debates in environmental ethics and the broader reach for global ethics. Writings celebrating biodiversity are examined along with the emergence of conservation biology as an example of engaged environmental scholarship. New efforts to widen the interdisciplinary approaches toward environmental issues are introduced in investigating world religions and ecology as well as cosmology and ecology.

The Science of Science Communication
Dan Kahan
T 10:10am-12pm
The simple dissemination of valid scientific knowledge does not guarantee it will be recognized by non-experts to whom it is of consequence. The science of science communication is an emerging, multidisciplinary field that investigates the processes that enable ordinary citizens to form beliefs consistent with the best available scientific evidence, the conditions that impede the formation of such beliefs, and the strategies that can be employed to avoid or ameliorate such conditions. This seminar surveys and makes a modest attempt to systematize the growing body of work in this area. Special attention is paid to identifying the distinctive communication dynamics of the diverse contexts in which non-experts engage scientific information, including electoral politics, governmental policy making, and personal health decision-making. Paper required. Permission of the instructor required.
F&ES 869 01 (23325)
Disaster, Degradation, Dystopia: Social Science Approaches to Environmental Perturbation and Change
Michael Dove
Th 1.00-3.50
This is an advanced seminar on the long tradition of social science scholarship on environmental perturbation and natural disasters, the relevance of which has been heightened by the current global attention to climate change. The course is divided into three main sections. The first consists of central questions and debates in the field: social dimensions of natural disasters; the discursive dimensions of environmental degradation, focusing on deforestation; and the current debate about the relationship between resource wealth and political conflict, focusing on the “green war” thesis. The second focuses on anthropological and interdisciplinary approaches to climate change and related topics, encompassing canonical anthropological work on flood and drought; cyclones, El Niño, and interannual cycles; ethno-ecology; and risk. Additional lectures focus on interdisciplinary work. The final section consists of the classroom presentation of work by the students.
Prerequisite: F&ES 520 or F&ES 839.

F&ES 876 01 (22411) /REL 918H
Indigenous Traditions and the Environment
John Grim
Mary Tucker
T 4.00-5.30
Exploration of how particular indigenous peoples relate to local bioregions and biodiversity. Differences between and within indigenous societies, especially in cultural relationships to place. Ways in which values associated with physical places are articulated in symbols, myths, rituals, and other embodied practices.

F&ES 877 01 (23359)
Anthropology of the Global Economy for Conservation and Development
Carol Carpenter
Th 9.30-12.20
This seminar explores topics in the anthropology of the global economy that are relevant to conservation and development policy and practice. Anthropologists are often assumed to focus on micro- or local-level research, and thus to have limited usefulness in the contemporary, global world of conservation and development policy. In fact, however, they have been examining global topics since at least the 1980s, and little current anthropological research is limited to the village level. More importantly, the anthropological perspective on the global economy is unique and important. This course examines the topics that make up this perspective, including using a single commodity to study the global economy, theorizing the transition to capitalism, the moral relation between economy and society, models for thinking about power in the global economy, articulations between rural households and the global economy, rural-urban relations in the global economy; the process of becoming a commodity, the commons debate, credit and debt, contracting and flexible accumulation, globalization and scale, and theorizing REDD. Readings for the course come from the subfields of environmental anthropology, economic anthropology, the anthropology of development, and the anthropology of conservation. This class is a prerequisite for F&ES 965. Though designed for master's and doctoral students, it is open to advanced undergraduates. Three hours lecture/seminar.

F&ES 888 01 (23327)
Ecological Urban Design
Alexander Felson
This course lays the groundwork for students from the School of Architecture and the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies to collaboratively explore and define ecologically driven urban design. The goal is to work as an interdisciplinary group to cultivate a perspective on the developing field of urban ecology and approaches to implementing urban ecological design. The transformation of urban ecology from a role in studying a system to studying and shaping urban ecosystems is a primary focus for the course, which concentrates on the following questions: How do we define urban ecosystems? How do we combine science, design, and planning to shape and manage urban ecosystems? How do we implement effective and adaptable experimental and monitoring methods specific to urban sites and human subjects in order to conduct viable urban ecological research? The course uses the Earth Stewardship Initiative, a large land-planning project developed for the Ecological Society of America in Sacramento, Calif., to create a real-world project where interdisciplinary teams can work to combine ecological applications and design with the goal of shaping urban systems to improve the ecological, social, and infrastructural function of city components. Limited enrollment.
F&ES 965b/ANTH 598b (23336)

**Advanced Readings: Social Science of Conservation & Development**

Spring 2019

Tuesdays 9:30-12:20

This course is an advanced seminar on the social science theory of development and conservation, designed as an MEM capstone course, and to give MESc and doctoral students a wider theoretical context for analyzing and writing up their research. It is also open to exceptional undergraduate students working on their senior essay research, who have taken a previous course with me. If any student thinks they have the background to benefit from the course, they should contact me. But no auditing. The course traces the conceptual history of the social science theory of development and conservation, focusing on theories of power/knowledge, governmentality, subject creation, and the economy. It examines relations between these theories, alternative theories, and how this history influences the field. The course covers the works of Michel Foucault most relevant to development and conservation; important social scientists who have used Foucault’s ideas (James Ferguson, Arturo Escobar, Tania Li, Donald Moore); alternative theories of power (James Scott, Bruno Latour, Timothy Mitchell); applications of Foucault’s ideas to the environment (especially Arun Agrawal, Bruce Braun, and Eric Darier); theories of the economic subject (Peter Miller & O’Leary, Anna Tsing, Katherine Rankin); Foucault on the economy and neoliberalism; the power of the economy in Tania Li; and finally theories of resistance (James Scott) and counter-conduct (Carl Death). We will read thirteen pieces by Foucault, and 20 by other social scientists.

Students are expected to use the course to develop, and present in class, their own research and writing.

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FILM 710 01 (23133) /AFAM 537

**Contemporary Art, Race, and the Philosophy of Media**

Rizvana Bradley

T 3:30 – 5:20

This course draws from a diverse range of writing in philosophy (especially the philosophy of media), contemporary critical theory (phenomenology, new materialism), contemporary feminist thought, queer theory, and black studies in order to question underlying assumptions about the body and embodied spaces in contemporary art and culture. Drawing from film, literature, performance, and contemporary art, students think about a range of philosophical and critical themes, including the role of the body, the virtual construction of time and space, questions of affect, and sensation, all of which inform concerns over representation, embodiment, and materiality.

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GMAN 654 01 (23103) /CPLT 562

**Living Form: Organicism in Society and Aesthetics**

Kirk Wetters

W 1.30 – 3.20

Starting with Kant, the organic is defined as a processual relation of the part and the whole, thereby providing a new model of the individual as a self-contained totality. We explore the implications of this conception in Goethe’s writings on morphology (The Metamorphosis of Plants, “Orphic Primal Words”), the Romantics’ Athenaeum, Hanslick’s On the Beautiful in Music, Oswald Spengler’s cultural morphology, the concept of autopoiesis in Maturana and Varela, Luhmann’s systems theory, and Canguilhem’s critique of the analogy of organic life and society.

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HIST 818 (24038)

**Commodity Production and Environmental History in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Stuart Schwartz

Th 1:30pm-3:20pm

This course presents readings across the past six centuries that examine the human impact on the environment of the region from a geographical and ecological perspective. Topics include the transformation of landscapes by plantation agriculture; the introduction of exogenous plant and animal species; and the impact of extractive industries, natural disasters, climate change, conservation, and tourism. Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

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HSAR 564 01 (22180) /ANTH 531/CLSS 815/ARCG 531/EALL 773/HIST 502/JDST 653/NELC 533/RLST 803

**Sensory Experiences in Ancient Ritual**

Carolyn Laferriere

Andrew Turner

Th 9.25-11.15

A comparative exploration of the role the senses played in the performance of ancient and premodern ritual, drawing from a range of ancient traditions including those of Greece, Rome, and Egypt, and from cultural traditions of the Near East,
India, China, and the New World. Placing particular emphasis on the relationship between art and ritual, we discuss the methods available for reconstructing ancient sensory experience, how the ancient cultures conceived of the senses and perception, and how worshipers' sensory experiences, whether visual, sonic, olfactory, gustatory, or haptic, were integral aspects in their engagement with the divine within religious ritual. This seminar incorporates material in the Yale Art Gallery.

HSAR 674 (21144)  
The History of Color, 1400–2000  
Carol Armstrong  
Nicola Suthor  
W 1:30pm-3:20pm  
This seminar looks at the vexed history of color in all of its aspects, from the Renaissance to the present. Divided between colore/couleur and colorito/coloris, and frequently opposed to disegno/dessin, color has often been relegated to second place and to the status of supplement, derogatorily associated with the superficial, the ephemeral, the deceptive, the illusory, the artificial, and the feminine. At the same time, it has been understood as the “difference” of painting, it is the essence of “what painting is” from a material and practical point of view, it has been at the heart of the paragone debates, and it has been a linchpin of modern and modernist art and theory. This course looks at the history of thought about color in a variety of areas: the alchemical and chemical; the practical and the theoretical; the science of optics; discourse, rhetoric, poetics, and philosophy. Writers addressed include Cennino Cennini and other authors of artist’s manuals; Roger de Piles, Sir Isaac Newton, and Johann Wolfgang van Goethe; Charles Baudelaire, Michel Eugène Chevreul, and Josef Albers; Rainer Maria Rilke and Ludwig Wittgenstein. Artists considered include Titian, Peter Paul Rubens, and Jean-Antoine Watteau; Eugène Delacroix, J.M.W. Turner, Edouard Manet, and the Impressionists; Georges Seurat and Paul Cézanne; Henri Matisse, Helen Frankenthaler, and the color-field painters.

HSAR 705 (22478)  
Representing the American West  
Jennifer Raab  
F 10:30am-12:20pm  
The American West holds a powerful place in the cultural and political imagination of the United States. This course examines settler colonial art and visual culture from the early republic to the present, considering changing conceptions of the land across media—from maps, aquatints, and guidebooks to paintings, photographs, and films. We will consider the representation of railroads, National Parks, ghost towns, and highways; terms such as distance, aridity, seriality, mythology, frontier, the sublime, and the grid; artists’ engagement with ecological questions; the construction of whiteness in and through the landscape; and sites of indigenous resistance. The focus will be on works in the collections of the Beinecke and the Yale University Art Gallery.
Meeting Info  
T 1:30pm-3:20pm

What distinguishes the urban screen—in terms of spatiality, economics, phenomenology, and technology—from other screens proliferating today? The course aims to think genealogically about the emergence and descent of large-scale urban screens as forms of public display and as new metropolitan interfaces. Today we are witnessing long-standing conceptions of the screen as a surface for the play of representations ceding ground to ecological understandings of the screen as an environmentally embedded node and as a point of dynamic mediation between actors and the world. Considering materials from film history, architectural history, art history, and urban history, the seminar considers the urban screen as a crucial part of the broader redefinition of the screen. Urban screens can be understood in terms of a rupture and recovery of screen history, wherein the fracturing of the screen (as movie screen) is coextensive with the recovery of older and alternate understandings of the screen (as facade, as protection, as shelter, as furniture, as filter, as masquerade, as control mechanism). A key aspect of the seminar is to work through the existing frameworks for thinking about urban screens and to propose new approaches that might shape this nascent area of study. In revisiting alternate histories of the screen, the course explores emerging screen cultures and their implications for the future of screen studies. Field trips to the Yale Art Gallery, Yale Center for British Art, Peabody Museum, and Beinecke Library.

HSAR 712 (23171)/ FILM 842
**Approaches to the Urban Screen**
Francesco Casetti  
Craig Buckley

HSHM 710 01 (21132) /HIST 921
**Problems in Science Studies**
Lisa Messeri
T 1.30-3.20 Exploration of the methods and debates in the social studies of science, technology, and medicine. This course covers the history of the field and its current intellectual, social, and political positioning. It provides critical tools—including feminist, postcolonial, and new materialist perspectives—to address the relationships among science, technology, medicine, and society.

HSHM 761 01 (23382) /AFAM 752/Hist 937
**Medicine and Empire**
Carolyn Roberts
M 1.30-3.20 A reading course that explores medicine in the context of early modern empires with a focus on Africa, India, and the Americas. Topics include race, gender, and the body; medicine and the environment; itineraries of scientific knowledge; enslaved, indigenous, and creole medical and botanical knowledge and practice; colonial contests over medical authority and power; indigenous and enslaved epistemologies of the natural world; medicine and religion.

REL 640 01 (22243)
**Body and Land**
Willie Jennings
W 1.30-3.30
1 HTBA
Areas DI (2)
Diversity DI
This course considers the relationship between the body and land, between bodily awareness and awareness of place, space, geography, and animals. The questions it seeks to answer are: What is the status of the geographic in the Christian imaginary? How do land and animal figure into contours of consciousness, theological vision, and life? How do ideas of private property, land enclosure, and spatial and racial segregation inform theories and theologies of the built environment? Our goal is to construct a cognitive map that integrates a theology of connectivity of body and land to a theology of relationality of peoples to each other, to the material world, and to God. Such a map might enable the formation of a moral geography that informs the creation of more just, inclusive, and nondestructive living spaces. Area II.