



[Suzuki Harunobu, *The Ferry Boat* \(ca. 1765\)](#)

**Environmental Humanities Courses
Spring 2023
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 Program 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 Fall 2022 semester.

[Undergraduate Courses](#)

[Graduate Courses](#)

Web: [Environmentalhumanities.yale.edu](https://environmentalhumanities.yale.edu) **Email:** Environmentalhumanities@yale.edu **Twitter:** [@YaleEnvHum](https://twitter.com/YaleEnvHum)

[Sign up for the Yale Environmental Humanities Newsletter for upcoming events and news](#)

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Undergraduate Courses

[AFAM](#) [AFST](#) [AMST](#) [ANTH](#) [ARCG](#) [ARCH](#) [CLCV](#) [ENGL](#) [ER&M](#) [EVST](#) [FILM](#) [GERM](#) [HIST](#) [HSAR](#) [HSHM](#)
[SPAN](#)

AFAM 148 (23589) / HSAR 260

A Sense of Place: Sculpture, Public Art, Monuments in and throughout Connecticut

Andrianna Campbell

TTh 1pm-2:15pm

Areas HU

This course is an introduction to an exploration of localities. There will be a particular focus on Connecticut's regional art projects, public sculpture commissions, and installations. Classes are thematically clustered and temporally range from post-1969 period until the present. In conjunction with traditional sculpture, the course examines recent art installations such as those by contemporary artist Tom Burr, whose work addresses the intersection of Black Power, queer aesthetics, and the post-2000s mercantile economization of space. The aim is for students to develop a sense of the variegated and sometimes forgotten richness of the Connecticut art landscape. The end results in an essay, which allows students to consider their residence and interaction with local art as foundational rather than separate from the canon of art history. Nevertheless, course readings consider global themes of race, culture, gender, sculpture, public art, and monuments as foundationally networked to those sited in Connecticut's regional examples.

AFAM 164 (23187) / PLSC 263 / URBN 304

The Politics of "The Wire": HBO's Portrayal of the American City

Allison Harris

Time TBA

Areas SO

This class uses HBO's groundbreaking series "The Wire" to investigate cities, their problems, and their politics. We watch all five seasons of the show as social scientists and use it to learn about important social scientific concepts and theories, and apply those theories to such phenomena as the politics of crime, policing, and local elections. Each week, the assigned readings—articles and book excerpts from political science as well as other social sciences—highlight the social scientific concepts displayed in the assigned episodes and provide context for lectures. All of the assignments work together to expose students to social science, how social science is conducted, and how political science can help us better understand the world around us.



[Image: William S. Sutton, Log Yard, Idaho \(1987, printed 2008\)](#)

AFAM 326 (22160) / AMST 312 / WGSS 298

Postcolonial Cities of the West

Fadila Habchi

Th 1:30pm-3:20pm

Areas HU

Examination of various texts and films pertaining to the representation of postcolonial cities in the global north and a range of social, political, and cultural issues that concern those who inhabit these spaces.

AFST 001 (20877) / NELC 001 / ARCG 001

Egypt and Northeast Africa: A Multidisciplinary Approach

John Darnell

MW 9am-10:15am

Areas HU, WR

An introduction to Egyptology, examining approximately 10,000 years of Nile Valley cultural records and 3,000 years of Egyptian history. The course presents an overview of the historical and archaeological study of Egypt and her southern neighbor Nubia. Various original written and visual sources are used, including the collections of the Peabody Museum and the Yale Art Gallery, with some material accessible in the classroom. Students gain a basic understanding of the hieroglyphic script and the Ancient Egyptian language, and are able to read some inscriptions in museum visits at the end of the course. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

AFST 200 (24149) / ER&M 216 / ANTH 200

Social Dimensions of Evolution in Africa

Veronica Waweru

Time TBA

Areas SO

Africa as the cradle of humanity is a widely accepted theory in scientific studies. Elsewhere nationalist archaeology has been used to bolster nationalism and facilitate state building. Africans, while embracing their recent history, have a marked disconnect to the cradle paradigm. A paradox thus arises out of the fact that the cradle of humanity status of Africa appears to hold no special place in the psyche of most of its inhabitants. This course examines symbolism, colonialism, poverty, media, literacy, and religion as agencies that distance the 'humanity cradle' status of Africa from nationalist and identity discourses.

AFST 335 (20242) / HIST 335 / ER&M 325

A History of South Africa

Daniel Magaziner

TTh 1:30pm-2:20pm

Areas HU

An introduction to the history of southern Africa, especially South Africa. Indigenous communities; early colonial contact; the legacies of colonial rule; postcolonial mismanagement; the vagaries of the environment; the mineral revolution; segregationist regimes; persistent inequality and crime since the end of apartheid; the specter of AIDS; postcolonial challenges in Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.

AMST 029 (21314)

Henry Thoreau

Michael Warner

MW 2:30pm-3:45pm

Areas HU

Henry Thoreau played a critical role in the development of environmentalism, American prose, civil rights, and the politics of protest. We read his writing in depth, and with care, understanding it both in its historical context and in its relation to present concerns of democracy and climate change. We read his published writing and parts of the journal, as well as biographical and contextual material. The class makes a field trip to Walden Pond and Concord, learning about climate change at Walden as revealed by Thoreau's unparalleled documentation of his biotic surroundings. Students consider Thoreau's place in current debates about the environment and politics, and are encouraged to make connection with those debates in a final paper. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

AMST 258 (22277) / ER&M 258 / EVST 258 / HSAR 258

Wilderness in the North American Imagination

Alison Kibbe

W 3:30pm-5:20pm

Areas HU

Framing the terms "wilderness" and "North America" expansively, this seminar examines the construction of and the relationships between the human and the non-human in the "New World" through the lens of the conquest encounter and its ongoing impacts. We approach "North America" as a construct that we cannot disentangle from the construction of the Americas as a whole. We unpack how concepts such as wilderness, nature, wild, tame, and human are deeply imbricate with the construction of race, gender, and capitalism and cannot be understood outside of the historical and cultural context of the conquest of the Americas. This interdisciplinary course is grounded in Black studies, Black geographies, mobility studies, food studies, and Black and Indigenous understandings of the other-than-human. We consider academic texts, literature, performance, creative production, and community projects as intellectual production and theoretical interventions. Through field trips and special guests we connect with local Black and Indigenous agricultural producers and outdoor educators working in New England and learn how multi-modal and community-engaged scholarship can offer models for critical intervention and healing. This course requires permission from the instructor. Email alison.kibbe@yale.edu.



[Image: Jimoh Buraimoh, *Birds* \(1970\)](#)

AMST 358 (21821) / ENGL 281

Animals in Modern American Fiction

James Berger

Th 1:30-3:20pm

Areas HU

Literary portrayals of animals are used to examine the relations between literature, science, and social and political thought since the late nineteenth century. Topics include Darwinist thought, socialism, fascism, gender and race relations, new thinking about ecology, and issues in neuroscience.

ANTH 203 (21172)

Primate Conservation

David Watts

TTh 2:30pm-3:45pm

Areas SO

A study of nonhuman primates threatened by deforestation, habitat disturbance, hunting, and other human activities; the future of primate habitats, especially tropical rainforests, as they are affected by local and global economic and political forces. Examination of issues in primate conservation, from the principles of conservation biology and rainforest ecology to the emergence of diseases such as AIDS and Ebola and the extraction of tropical resources by local people and by transnational corporations.

ANTH 322 (21205) / EVST 324 / SAST 306

Environmental Justice in South Asia

Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan

Th 1:30pm-3:20pm

Areas SO

Study of South Asia's nation building and economic development in the aftermath of war and decolonization in the 20th century. How it generated unprecedented stress on natural environments; increased social disparity; and exposure of the poor and minorities to environmental risks and loss of homes, livelihoods, and cultural resources. Discussion of the rise of environmental justice movements and policies in the region as the world comes to grips with living in the Anthropocene.

ANTH 326 (23786) / ARCG 326

Ancient Civilizations of the Eurasian Steppes

William Honeychurch

F 3:30-5:20pm

Areas SO

Examination of peoples of the steppe zone that stretches from Eastern Europe to Mongolia. Overview of what archaeologists know about Eurasian steppe societies, with emphasis on the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron, and medieval ages. Attention both to material culture and to historical sources. Topics range from the domestication of the horse to Genghis Khan's world empire, including the impact these events had on neighboring civilizations in Europe and Asia.

ANTH 331 (21253) / EVST 354 / ARCG 354 / HIST 204J / NELC 324

The Ancient State: Genesis and Crisis from Mesopotamia to Mexico

Harvey Weiss

Th 3:30pm-5:20pm

Areas HU, SO

Ancient states were societies with surplus agricultural production, classes, specialization of labor, political hierarchies, monumental public architecture and, frequently, irrigation, cities, and writing. Pristine state societies, the earliest civilizations, arose independently from simple egalitarian hunting and gathering societies in six areas of the world. How and why these earliest states arose are among the great questions of post-Enlightenment social science. This course explains (1) why this is a problem, to this day, (2) the dynamic environmental forces that drove early state formation, and (3) the unresolved fundamental questions of ancient state genesis and crisis, –law-like regularities or a chance coincidence of heterogeneous forces?

ANTH 414 (21181) / EAST 417 / ANTH 575 / EAST 575

Hubs, Mobilities, and World Cities

Helen Siu

Th 1:30pm-3:20pm

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 438 (21174)

Culture, Power, Oil

Douglas Rogers

W 9:25am-11:15am

Areas SO

The production, circulation, and consumption of petroleum as they relate to globalization, empire, cultural performance, natural resource extraction, and the nature of the state. Case studies include the United States, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and the former Soviet Union.

ANTH 492 (21162) / ARCG 492 / NELC 321

Imaging Ancient Worlds

Klaus Wagensohnner and Agnete Lassen

MW 9am-10:15am

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.

ARCG 031 (20871) / NELC 026 / EVST 030

Origins of Civilization: Egypt and Mesopotamia

Harvey Weiss

TTh 9am-10:15am

Areas HU, SO

The origins of the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia and Egypt along the Nile and Tigris-Euphrates Rivers explored with archaeological, historical and environmental data for the origins of agriculture, the classes and hierarchies that marked earliest cities, states and empires, the innovative monumental architecture, writing, imperial expansion, and new national ideologies. How and why these civilizational processes occurred with the momentous societal collapses at periods of abrupt climate change. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

ARCH 213 (22991) / GSAR 312

Modern Architecture in a Global Context, 1750-present

Craig Buckley

TTh 1:30pm-2:20pm

Areas HU

Architects, movements, and buildings central to the development of modern architecture from the mid eighteenth century through to the present. Common threads and differing conceptions of modern architecture around the globe. The relationship of architecture to urban transformation; the formulation of new typologies; architects' responses to new technologies and materials; changes in regimes of representation and media. Architects include Claude Nicolas Ledoux, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, John Soane, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Lina Bo Bardi, Louis Kahn, and Kenzo Tange.

ARCH 341 (22515) / GLBL 253 / LAST 318 / URBN 341

Globalization Space

Keller Easterling

TBA

Areas HU

Infrastructure space as a primary medium of change in global polity. Networks of trade, energy, communication, transportation, spatial products, finance, management, and labor, as well as new strains of political opportunity that reside within their spatial disposition. Case studies include free zones and automated ports around the world, satellite urbanism in South Asia, high-speed rail in Japan and the Middle East, agripoles in southern Spain, fiber optic submarine cable in East Africa, spatial products of tourism in North Korea, and management platforms of the International Organization for Standardization.

ARCH 392 (21812) / ENGL 478

Writing About Place

Cynthia Zarin

W 9:25-11:15am

Areas HU, WR

An exploration of reading and writing about place. Definitions of home; different meanings and intent of travel. Readings include exemplary contemporary essays from the eighteenth century to the present. Workshop for assigned student essays.

CLCV 258 (22177) / EVST 257 / HIST 201

Ecocultures of Antiquity: Ecocritical Approaches to Ancient Greece and Rome

Kirk Freudenburg

TTh 1pm-2:15pm

Areas HU

This class examines how the Greeks and Romans exploited their natural surroundings not only as physical resources, but as resources for human thought. The focus is on how ancient thinkers, living lives that were largely city-bound and detached from nature, structured their thoughts about the lives they lived (and about human existence more generally) by reference to their nonhuman surroundings: creatures, plants and places, some of which existed in the real world (in places far off, largely unknown and elsewhere; in places penetrated, explored, and/or told of), others of which existed entirely in the imagination, whether as inherited lore, or as places and creatures invented ad hoc by individuals and groups to get certain kinds of cultural work done. We look not only at the how and what, but at the why of nature's encoding via culture, and vice versa (their symbiosis), paying special attention to ancient Rome (though with a short first glance at Homer, Hesiod and Aristotle). We begin by scrutinizing the categories themselves, attempting to find historically appropriate ways to connect modern ecocritical concerns and ways of thought to the ancient world. Topics include: the cosmos, the heavens, and the first humans (and first peoples in their places); humans in their 'kinds' and animals, wild and tame; mountains, rivers, the sea and the undersea; human and animal foods, farming and food ways; wine and fermentation; groves, forests and trees; gardens, flowers, vegetables and fungi; birds, fish, weasels and snakes; earthquakes, floods and natural disasters; pollution, dirt and the city of Rome; the ecocultural lives of others.

[Image: David Wojnarowicz, *Untitled* \(1985\)](#)

ENGL 121 – Section 05 (22528)

Styles of Academic and Professional Prose: Writing About Cities

Pamela Newton

MW 11:35am-12:50pm

Areas WR

A seminar and workshop in the conventions of good writing in a specific field. Each section focuses on one academic or professional kind of writing and explores its distinctive features through a variety of written and oral assignments, in which students both analyze and practice writing in the field. Section topics, which change yearly, are listed at the beginning of each term on the English departmental website. This course may be repeated for credit in a section that treats a different genre or style of writing; may not be repeated for credit toward the



major. Prerequisite: ENGL 114, 115, 120, or another writing-intensive course at Yale.

ENGL 196 (20107)

Introduction to Media

John Peters

Areas HU, WR

Introduction to the long history of media as understood in classical and foundational (and even more recent experimental) theories. Topics involve the technologies of modernity, reproduction, and commodity, as well as questions regarding knowledge, representation, public spheres, and spectatorship. Special attention given to philosophies of language, visibility, and the environment, including how digital culture continues to shape these realms.

ER&M 401 (20092)

Writer/Rioter: Public Writing in the 21st Century

Leah Mirakhor

TBA

Areas HU

In his collection *Lunch with A Bigot: The Writer in the World*, Amitava Kumar asks "What divides the writer from the rioter?" This class is concerned with unpacking the various ways writers participate in the 21st century world as disturbers of the peace. This century has seen great advances in technology, health, alternative energies, new forms of communication, but also vast consolidations of power, mass incarceration, climate change, poverty, homelessness, wars, state surveillance, and sexual violence. Our current historical moment increasingly asks us to craft broader and deeper connections between personal, local, national, and international issues. This course explores cultural criticism on a range of issues that examine the intersections of history, politics, media, and various crises in the 21st century by writers from a variety of backgrounds: journalists, academics, activists, artists, scientists, and politicians. We analyze how these writers use their professional expertise to craft work for the public arena, and what it means to create a history of the present. The course's four sections cover various responses to some of the issues most publicly contested across college campuses nationwide, and here at Yale: racial unrest, sexual assault, climate change, poverty, incarceration, fascism, and gun violence.

EVST 030 (20872) / NELC 026 / ARC 031

Origins of Civilization: Egypt and Mesopotamia

Harvey Weiss

TTh 9am-10:15am

Areas HU, SO

EVST 060 (20996)

Topics in Environmental Justice

Michael Fotos

TTh 1pm-2:15pm

Areas SO, WR

This seminar introduces students to key concepts in environmental justice and to a selection of cases representing a wide range of environmental dilemmas. Course readings and discussions impart awareness of the diverse contexts in which problems of environmental justice might be studied, whether historical, geographic, racial, social, economic, political, biological, geophysical, or epistemic. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

EVST 189 (20248) / HIST 246

The History of Food

Paul Freedman

TTh 10:30am-11:20am

Areas HU

The history of food and culinary styles from prehistory to the present, with a particular focus on Europe and the United States. How societies gathered and prepared food. Changing taste preferences over time. The influence of consumers on trade, colonization, and cultural exchange. The impact of colonialism, technology, and globalization. The current food scene and its implications for health, the environment, and cultural shifts.



[Image: Julie Buffalohead, *Indifferent* \(2017\)](#)

EVST 215 (20580) / MB&B 459 / ENGL 459

Writing about Science, Medicine, and the Environment

Carl Zimmer

M 1:30-3:20pm

Areas WR

Advanced non-fiction workshop in which students write about science, medicine, and the environment for a broad public audience. Students read exemplary work, ranging from newspaper articles to book excerpts, to learn how to translate complex subjects into compelling prose. Admission

by permission of the instructor only. Applicants should email the instructor at carl@carlzimmer.com with the following information: 1. One or two samples of nonacademic, nonfiction writing. (No fiction or scientific papers, please.) Indicate the course or publication, if any, for which you wrote each sample. 2. A note in which you briefly describe your background (including writing experience and courses) and explain why you'd like to take the course.

EVST 219 (21588) / PHIL 290

Philosophical Environmental Ethics

Stephen Latham

TTh 9am-10:15am

Areas SO

This is a philosophical introduction to environmental ethics. The course introduces students to the basic contours of the field and to a small number of special philosophical problems within the field. No philosophical background is required or expected. Readings are posted on Canvas and consist almost entirely of contemporary essays by philosophers and environmentalists.

EVST 255 (21006) / F&ES 255 / GLBL 282 / PLSC 215

Environmental Law and Politics

John Wargo

T 1:30pm-3:20pm

Areas SO

We explore relations among environmental quality, health, and law. We consider global-scale avoidable challenges such as: environmentally related human illness, climate instability, water depletion and contamination, food and agriculture, air pollution, energy, packaging, culinary globalization, and biodiversity loss. We evaluate the effectiveness of laws and regulations intended to reduce or prevent environmental and health damages. Additional laws considered include rights of secrecy, property, speech, worker protection, and freedom from discrimination. Comparisons among the US and EU legal standards and precautionary policies will also be examined. Ethical concerns of justice, equity, and transparency are prominent themes.

EVST 349 (20177) / HSHM 449 / URBN 382 / HIST 449J

Critical Data Visualization: History, Theory, and Practice

Bill Rankin

T 1:30pm-3:20pm

Areas HU

Critical analysis of the creation, use, and cultural meanings of data visualization, with emphasis on both the theory and the politics of visual communication. Seminar discussions include close readings of historical data graphics since the late eighteenth century and conceptual engagement with graphic semiology, ideals of objectivity and honesty, and recent approaches of feminist and participatory data design. Course assignments focus on the research, production, and workshopping of students' own data graphics; topics include both historical and contemporary material. No prior software experience is required; tutorials are integrated into weekly meetings. Basic proficiency in standard graphics software is expected by the end of the term, with optional support for more advanced programming and mapping software.

FILM 344 (23018) / GMAN 344

Landscape, Film, Architecture

Fatima Naqvi

Th 9:25-11:15am

Areas HU

Movement through post-1945 landscapes and cityscapes as a key to understanding them. The use of cameras and other visual-verbal means as a way to expand historical, aesthetic, and sociological inquiries into how these places are inhabited and experienced. Exploration of both real and imaginary spaces in works by filmmakers (Wenders, Herzog, Ottinger, Geyrhalter, Seidl, Ade, Grisebach), architects and sculptors (e.g. Rudofsky, Neutra, Abraham, Hollein, Pichler, Smithson, Wurm, Kienast), photographers (Sander, B. and H. Becher, Gursky, Höfer), and writers (Bachmann, Handke, Bernhard, Jelinek). Additional readings by Certeau, Freytag, J.B. Jackson, L. Burckhardt.

GERM 167

Green Germany, History and Culture of Sustainability

Marion Gehlker

MW 11:35-12:50pm

Areas HU, LA (5)

Climate change and global warming, with their catastrophic effects on life on earth, such as accelerated ice-melting and extreme weather patterns, loss of biodiversity and habitat, safety and health risks, are the defining issues of our time. How did we get there? How will we get out? In this course, we explore Germany's history and culture of environmentalism and sustainability, which is often traced back to Saxon mining administrator Hans Carl von Carlowitz' demand in 1716 that only so much wood be cut as could be regrown. We discuss Germany's history and culture of environmentalism and sustainability from 1900 (Lebensreform, biodynamic agriculture, vegetarianism, Gartenstadt inspired settlements) to the present, with emphasis on 70s and 80s social (justice) movements (alternative life-styles, anti-nuclear protests, Green Party) to the present (Energiewende, renewables, coal and nuclear phase-out, food waste, factory farming & bioethics, consumerism & sustainable life-styles, slow growth/degrowth). Prerequisite: L5 class or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

HIST 432J (24074) / HSHM 404

Colonialism, Capitalism, and Climate Science

Instructor TBA

T 1:30-3:20pm

Areas HU, WR

This course has two parts: the first investigates how climate science was shaped in colonial contexts—examples include the mistranslation of indigenous climate knowledge in colonial Latin America and Africa, the construction of the Early American climate by agrarian settlers, and the racialization of tropical climates. The second unit addresses key debates about climate science in a global capitalist world. Case studies cover the role of fossil fuel companies in spreading doubts over global warming in the 1970s, attempts at climate engineering in the post-WWII era, and ongoing discussions of climate reparations. While nominally successive, this course connects, entangles, and traces flows of capital into the colonial past and colonial legacies up to and through the present day. Understanding the complex and contested history of climate science gives students the tools to both defend the legitimacy and poignancy of climate concerns while simultaneously reckoning with the blanks and harms reproduced in the unequal production of climate science. Ultimately, to interweave the history of climate science with histories of colonialism and capitalism is to insist on the situatedness of climate science and to open the possibility for alternative responses to climate change based on scientific as well as humanistic sensibilities.

[Image: Iwami Reika, *Eclipse of the Moon over the Sea* \(1982\)](#)

HIST 458J (21058) / SAST 421

Environmentalism from the Global South

Sunil Amrith

Th 1:30pm-3:20pm

Areas HU, WR

Most histories of the environmental movement still privilege the American and European experience. This research seminar examines the diverse forms of environmental thought and activism that have emerged from the global South—drawing examples from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America—since the early twentieth century. The course examines: the environmental legacies of colonialism, the role of ecology in anticolonial movements, early articulations of environmental justice in the 1970s, the role of violence and repression in state responses to environmental activism, the rise of increasingly networked environmental movements from the Global South that made themselves heard at the Rio Earth Summit of 1992—which took place 30 years ago, and the moral and political histories that underpin the negotiating stance of countries of the Global South in climate change negotiations. This class makes extensive use of primary sources, including material from the Yale collections and it straddles the boundaries between environmental, intellectual, and political history.

HIST 459J (23161) / HUMS 228 / EVST 228 / LITR 345

Climate Change and the Humanities

Katja Lindskog

MW 11:35-12:50pm

Areas HU

What can the Humanities tell us about climate change? The Humanities help us to better understand the relationship between everyday individual experience, and our rapidly changing natural world. To that end, students read literary, political, historical, and religious texts to better understand how individuals both depend on, and struggle against, the natural environment in order to survive.

HSAR 436 (22995)

The Art of Crisis

Joanna Fiduccia

T 1:30-3:20pm

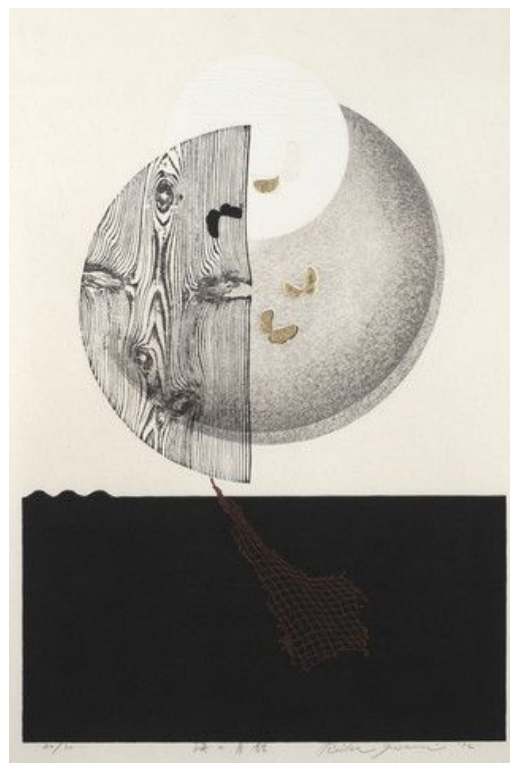
Areas HU

This course examines the intersection of artistic and political crises from the nineteenth century to the present. We explore an array of calamities, from psychological breakdowns and identity crises to political revolutions, financial crashes, and climate chaos. Reading primary texts alongside artworks that illustrate or issue out of these crises, we investigate whether there is such a thing as an art of crisis: a set of formal characteristics or strategies for coming to terms with, surviving, or accelerating crisis. We ask: does art made during times of crisis obey different aesthetic criteria, or require different interpretive tools? How does the cyclical structure of crisis and recovery relate to narratives of cultural progress? Do we require the concept of crisis to explain the production of art in general, and how might art appear without it?

HSAR 457 (23250)

Japanese Gardens

Mimi Yiengpruksawan



W 9:25-11:15am

Areas HU

Arts and theory of the Japanese garden with emphasis on the role of the anthropogenic landscape from aesthetics to environmental precarity, including the concept of refugium. Case studies of influential Kyoto gardens from the 11th through 15th centuries, and their significance as cultural productions with ecological implications.

HSHM 006 (20156)

Making Climate Knowledge

Deborah Coen

Th 2pm-5pm

Areas HU, WR

This is a course about how scientists have come to know what they know about our impacts on the earth's climate and our vulnerability to climate change. At what point in history did humans become the first species to consciously alter the conditions of life on earth? What evidence did their knowledge rest on? Did scientists bear responsibility to warn of these consequences? These historical questions are pivotal to thinking today about who bears moral responsibility for the climate crisis and about future courses of action. Knowledge of the causes and impacts of climate change hinges on a range of disciplines, from ecology to agriculture to public health. In this course, we attend to the multiplicity of ways of knowing climate, as well as to the challenges of integrating them. We also track the historical entanglements of climate knowledge with imperialism, racism, and extractive capitalism. The course includes visits to the Yale Farm, the Peabody Museum's collections, and the Yale Center for British Art, and a trip to the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

HSHM 417 (22330)

Before the Anthropocene: Global Environment in the Preindustrial World

Ivano Dal Prete

M 1:30pm-3:20pm

Areas HU, WR

This seminar explores the cultural history of climate change, environmental catastrophes, and human agency over nature in the pre-industrial world. Students discuss scientific theories, religious beliefs, economic imperatives, and ideological and gender prisms that paved the way for an era of unprecedented exploitation of the Earth's resources and environment. Special emphasis is placed on the study of visual and material primary sources at the Beinecke and other venues on campus.



[Image: Marion Belanger, *Destroyed Swamp* \(2001\)](#)

SPAN 218 (22297) / CPLT 968 / HUMS 196 / LITR 401 / SPAN 618

The End of the World

Jesus Velasco

MW 11:35am-12:50pm

Areas HU, LA

In this course we study different kinds of narratives about the end of times and its consequences in Iberian and Latin American cultures. We include political, theological, social, and environmental narratives across periodizations in Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Instruction is in Spanish.

SPAN 228 (23715) / LAST 228 / ER&M 278

Borders & Globalization in Hispanophone Cultures

Luna Najera

TTh 1pm-2:15pm

Areas LA (5)

The borders that constitute the geographical divisions of

the world are contingent, but they can have enormous ordering power in the lives of people and other beings. Human-made borders can both allow and disallow the flow of people and resources. Like geographical borders, social borders such as race, caste, class, and gender can form and perpetuate privileged categories of humans that restrict access of excluded persons to natural resources, education, security, and social mobility. Thus, bordering can differentially value human lives. Working with the premise that borders are sites of power, in this course we study bordering and debordering practices in the Hispanic cultures of Iberia, Latin America, and North America, from the 1490s to the present. Through analyses of a wide range of texts students will investigate the multiple ways in which social, cultural, and spatial borders are initiated, expressed, materialized, and contested. Some of the questions that will guide our conversations are: What are social borders and what are the processes through which they perdure? How do the effects of local practices that transcend borders (e.g., environmental pollution, deforestation) change our understanding of borders? How does globalization change discourse about borders? (To be conducted in Spanish.) Prerequisite: SPAN 140 or 145, or in accordance with placement results. A maximum of one course in the 200-230 range may count as an elective toward the Spanish major. Permission is managed through the YCS registration system.

SPAN 404 / (22012) / ARCG 264 / ANTH 264

Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory

Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos

TTh 11:35am-12:50pm

Areas SO

An anthropological and ethnohistorical examination of the Aztec civilization that dominated much of Mexico from the fourteenth century until the Spanish Conquest of 1521.

Graduate Courses

[AMST](#) [ANTH](#) [ARCH](#) [CPLT](#) [ENV](#) [FILM](#) [FREN](#) [GLBL](#) [HSAR](#) [HIST](#) [HSHM](#) [REL](#)

AMST 613 (23255) / HSHM 777 / ANTH 770 / HIST 918

Nature and the Modern Museum

Chitra Ramalingam

TTh 2:40-5:40pm

This graduate seminar explores how nature has been constructed, reorganized, and mobilized in the modern museum, while introducing graduate students to museum studies and museum practice. With history of science/science studies at its disciplinary core, the course also incorporates methodologies and readings from cultural history, history of art, anthropology, museum studies, critical heritage studies, and art practice. We examine Yale's museums and collections as sites for forging and defining relations between nature and culture, between the natural and the unnatural, and between human and environment. The course builds toward historically informed discussions of questions about decolonization, repatriation, and repair circulating in current public discourse around natural history museums. Our most sustained engagement will be with the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, and the history of natural history in the United States since 1800. The course has a varied format, incorporating seminar discussions of readings, site visits to museums on and off campus, and workshops with Peabody collections and staff. This course helps to build an ongoing dialogue between graduate students and museum staff as the Peabody rethinks its displays for its current renovation, and is intended to lead to a student-curated exhibition at the Peabody in 2024.

AMST 638 (22037) / ER&M 387

Migrants and Borders in the Americas

Alicia Schmidt Camacho

T 3:30-5:20pm

This seminar takes a migrant-centered approach to our examination of human mobility in the current era. The course plan includes critical and thematic readings that examine Central America, Mexico, and the United States as integrated spaces of migration, governance, cultural, and social exchange, focusing on the period 1994 to the present. Through examination of different kinds of primary sources - documentary film, legislative acts, human rights reports, and testimonial narrative, the course discusses methods and approaches for understanding the impacts of economic globalization, militarized security, and social inequality on transnational communities. The course gives special emphasis to social movements that have arisen in response to the violence of the drug wars, the criminalization of migration, the formation of transnational indigenous communities, and gender violence in the region.

[Image: Stone Vase \(Egyptian, Old Kingdom\), 2686–2160 BCE](#)

AMST 667 (20887)

Critical Human Geography

Laura Barraclough

Th 9:25am-11:15am

This readings course immerses students in the critical/radical tradition of human geography, which investigates how power relations and structural inequalities are spatially produced, contested, and transformed. Topics include the relationship between geography's development as a discipline and histories of imperialism; indigenous geographies and spatial persistence; spatial theories of capitalism and uneven development; feminist and queer geographies; geographies of blackness, white supremacy, and settler colonialism; gentrification and urban change; critical geographic information science and counter-mapping; and new approaches to landscape and region.

AMST 692 (20888)

Religion and the Performance of Space

Sally Promey and Margaret Olin

Th 1:30-3:20pm

This interdisciplinary seminar explores categories, interpretations, and strategic articulations of space in a range of religious traditions. In conversation with the work of major theorists of space, this seminar examines spatial practices of



religion in the United States during the modern era, including the conception, construction, and enactment of religious spaces. It is structured around theoretical issues, including historical deployments of secularity as a framing mechanism, ideas about space and place, geography and gender, and relations between property and spirituality. Examples of case studies treated in class include the enactment of rituals within museums, the marking of religious boundaries such as the Jewish "eruv," and the assignment of "spiritual" ownership in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

ANTH 514 (22076) / HIST 515 / ARCG 515 / CLSS 878 / CPLT 671 / JDST 657 / NELC 570 / RLST 672

Corrupting Seas: Premodern Maritime Ecologies (Archaia Seminar)

Noel Lenski and Hussein Fancy

W 1:30pm-3:20pm

Uses the theoretical framework of "corrupting seas" developed by Horden and Purcell as a hermeneutic to investigate the cultural, economic, political, and religious environments of the archaic, ancient and medieval Mediterranean, and similar maritime ecologies. Landscape and natural ecologies play an important but not exclusive role in mapping how diversity and connectivity combined to constitute complex and dynamic environments in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Caribbean, and South China Sea. The course is connected with Archaia's Ancient Societies Workshop, which runs its own series of events through the academic year. Students must attend the ASW events in the spring (fall events are optional).

ANTH 710 (21142) / ARCG 710

Settlement Patterns and Landscape Archaeology

Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos

T 9:25am-11:15am

An introduction to the archaeological study of ancient settlements and landscapes. Topics include an overview of method and theory in settlement and landscape archaeology; field methods of reconnaissance, survey, and remote sensing; studies of households and communities; studies of ancient agricultural landscapes; regional patterns; roads and networks of communication; urbanism and ancient cities; and symbolic interpretations of ancient landscapes.

ANTH 964 (22068) / HIST 964 / HSAR 842 / HSHM 692

Topics in the Environmental Humanities

Paul Sabin

W 5:30pm-7:20pm

This is the required workshop for the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities. The workshop meets six times per term to explore concepts, methods, and pedagogy in the environmental humanities, and to share student and faculty research. Each student pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities must complete both a fall term and a spring term of the workshop, but the two terms of student participation need not be consecutive. The fall term each year emphasizes key concepts and major intellectual currents. The spring term each year emphasizes pedagogy, methods, and public practice. Specific topics vary each year. Students who have previously enrolled in the course may audit the course in a subsequent year. Open only to students pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities.

School of Architecture courses will be updated as the listings become available.

ARCH 559 (22040)

Ph.D. Seminar: Ecosystems in Architecture II

Anna Dyson

TBA

Required in, and limited to, Ph.D. first year, spring term, Ecosystems track. Seminar covers the history and theory of the environment.

ARCH 569 (22041)

Ph.D. Seminar: Ecosystems in Architecture IV

Anna Dyson

TBA

Required in, and limited to, Ph.D. second year, spring term, Ecosystems track. Seminar covers visualization and environmental visual analytics.

CPLT 658

Early Modern Ecologies: Representing Peasants, Animals, Labor, Land

Jane Tylus

T 3:30-5:20pm

To what extent does writing about the land and depicting landscapes in early modern Europe reflect a new interest in engaging the boundaries between the human and nonhuman? What does it show about the commitment of artists and intellectuals to representing cultures and environments not necessarily their own? And how did writers and artists seek to legitimize their intellectual labors by invoking images of agricultural work? Since antiquity, artists have often chosen to make the countryside and its human and nonhuman denizens symbols of other things: leisure, song, exile, patriotism, erotic sensibilities, anti-urbanism. Early Christianity in turn embraced the desert—and the countryside—as a space for spirituality. We explore these origins and turn to the early modern period, when such interests exploded into poems, novels, plays, and paintings—a period that coincided with new world discoveries and new possibilities for "golden ages" abroad. We read works by Virgil, St. Jerome, Petrarch, Shakespeare, Spenser, Milton, Tasso, Seamus Heaney, and others, and take at least one trip to a local gallery (in New Haven or New York). Finally, we explore recent work in ecocriticism and environmental studies in order to grapple with ancient and early modern understandings of the natural world.

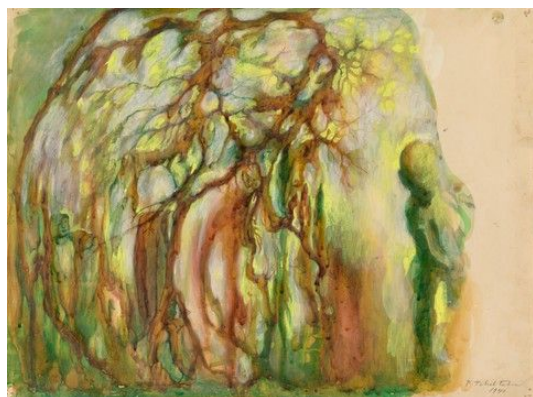
ENV 613

Writing as a Public Scholar

Stephanie Hanes Wilson

Th 1pm-3:50pm

Environmental scholars and practitioners increasingly recognize the need, and often have the desire, to communicate their passions and expertise to a wide, lay audience. The seminar starts from the premise that to do this effectively a mastery of written storytelling is essential, particularly in today's saturated and fractured media landscape. Students will read popular works by classic and contemporary scholars, such as Rachel Carson and Richard Prum; practitioners in the sciences, such as Atul Gawande and Peter Wohlleben; and journalists such as Elizabeth Kolbert and John McPhee; as well as growing number of authors, such as Bill McKibben, whose work crosses these categories. Some pieces students will analyze multiple times, developing an increasingly nuanced understanding of storytelling technique.



[Image: Pavel Tchelitchew, *Study for Head of Spring in Hide and Seek* \(1940\)](#)

ENV 619b

Philosophical Environmental Ethics

Stephen Latham

TTh 9am-10:15am

This is a philosophical introduction to environmental ethics. The course introduces students to the basic contours of the field and to a small number of special philosophical problems within the field. No philosophical background is required or expected. Readings are posted on Canvas and consist almost entirely of contemporary essays by philosophers and environmentalists. The total reading load averages about three philosophy papers weekly—roughly sixty pages. Course avoids environmental ethics topics that are treated in other Yale courses: e.g., religion and ecology, and all but a very little bit of indigenous views of ecology.

ENV 642b

Environmental Justice/Climate Justice

Gerald Torres

TTh 4pm-5:20pm

In this seminar, we will focus on the evolution and development of the environmental justice movement. We will pay particular attention to its embrace of climate justice, and we will ask what conception of justice is at play in both the environmental justice and climate justice movement. We will begin with a legal and social-historical survey but will quickly bring the inquiry up to the current moment. We will explore the legal and policy developments that have followed the environmental justice critique. I will expect students to choose a particular movement (or one expression of it) and write a paper bringing to bear all of the questions we raise in the seminar. (For example, how did opposition from environmental justice advocates lead to a reformed climate change initiative in California? Or What is the genesis of the Sunrise movement and what legal or policy changes would be required to make it a reality.) The paper need not focus on a domestic response, because the environmental/climate justice critique is now global.

ENV 651b

Seminar in the Biosphere: History, Development, and Consequences

Graeme P. Berlyn

TTh 1pm-2:20pm

This seminar traces the history and development of the biosphere concept and its consequences: biological, social, and cultural. The course will start with a discussion of four major contributors: Eduard Suess, a paleontologist/geologist who coined the term; Vladimir Vernadsky, who amplified the concept; Arthur Tansley, who coined the term ecosystem; and G. Evelyn Hutchinson, who amplified and quantified the ecosystem concept. Energy flow in the biosphere will also be discussed. Students will be required to give seminars and present a term paper on topics of their choice.

ENV 746b

Conservation Ethics

Oswald J. Schmitz

MW 1pm-2:20pm

Conservation Biology is a crisis discipline, seeking to preserve biodiversity across scales. As such, the discipline is constantly faced with challenging scientific and ethical dilemmas, which requires that practitioners have a robust understanding of both ecology and environmental philosophy. This course will provide students with a foundation in applied ethics and the tools necessary to solve contemporary problems in conservation while managing the ethical realities. The first half of the semester will be focused on gaining the ethical foundation necessary to engage in conservation ethics. Weekly philosophical readings will be assigned and classes will be a mix of lecture and seminar style discussion. The second half of the course will focus on integrating these ethical frameworks with scientific practice through a series of case studies. This part of the class will be conducted primary seminar style and require short, weekly management plans informed by ethical reasoning. No philosophical background is required and the course material has been tailored not to overlap significantly with other courses offered at Yale (i.e. Environmental Ethics, Environmental History and Values, or Environmental Justice).

ENV 796b

Biopolitics of Human-Nonhuman Relations

Michael Dove

Th 1pm-3:50pm

Seminar on the "posthumanist" turn toward multispecies ethnography. Section I, introduction. Section II, perspectivism: the posthuman turn and multispecies ethnography; ecology and consciousness; and hunters and prey. Section III, entanglements: indigenous knowledge; Natural History; and conflicted views of conservation. Section IV, metaphors: the animal speaking for the human; and human and geological perturbation. Section V, student readings and presentations. Three hours lecture/seminar, with food provided, university regulations permitting. Enrollment capped

ENV 820b

Land Use Law and Environmental Planning

Marjorie Shansky

MW 4pm-5:20pm

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 how the environment can be protected through effective regulation at the local level. It provides an introduction to federal, state, regional, and local laws and programs that promote 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 that relate to human settlement patterns, water resources, low impact development, watershed protection,

alternatives to Euclidean zoning, brownfields redevelopment, resiliency and adaptation in response to sea-level rise and climate change. Students engage in empirical research to identify, catalogue, and evaluate innovative local laws that successfully protect environmental functions and natural resources, and the manner in which towns 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 and other regulations designed to promote sustainable development in a climate-changing world.



[Image: Lee Friedlander, *Death Valley* \(1997\)](#)

ENV 839b

Power in Conservation

Carol Carpenter

This course examines the anthropology of power, particularly power in conservation interventions in the global South. It is intended to give students a tool-box of ideas about power in order to improve the effectiveness of conservation. Conservation thought and practice is power laden—conservation thought is powerfully shaped by the history of ideas of nature

and its relation to people, and conservation interventions govern and affect peoples and ecologies. This course argues that being able to think deeply, particularly about power, improves conservation policy-making and practice.

Political ecology is by far the most well-known and well-published approach to thinking about power in conservation; this course emphasizes the relatively neglected but robust anthropology of conservation literature outside political ecology, especially literature rooted in Foucault. It is intended to make four of Foucault's concepts of power accessible, concepts that are the most used in the anthropology of conservation: the power of discourses, discipline and governmentality, subject formation, and neoliberal governmentality. The important ethnographic literature that these concepts have stimulated is also examined. Together, theory and ethnography can underpin our emerging understanding of a new, Anthropocene-shaped world.

This course will be of interest to students and scholars of conservation, environmental anthropology and political ecology, as well as conservation practitioners and policymakers. It is a required course for students in the joint YSE/Anthropology doctoral degree. It is highly recommended for MESC students who need an in-depth course on social science theory. MEM students interested in conservation practice and policy-making are also encouraged to consider this course, which makes an effort to bridge the gap between the best academic literature and practice. It is also open to advanced undergraduate students. No prerequisites. Three hour discussion-centered seminar.

ENV 842b

Environmental Law and Policy

Robert Klee

MW 1pm-2:20pm

Introduction to the legal requirements and policy underpinnings of the basic U.S. laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and various statutes governing waste, food safety, and toxic substances. This course will examine and evaluate current approaches to pollution control and resource management as well as the "next generation" of regulatory strategies, including economic incentives, voluntary emissions reductions, and information disclosure requirements. Mechanisms for addressing environmental issues at the local, regional, and global levels will also be considered. Scheduled examination

FILM 919 (20110) / ENGL 919

Elemental Media

John Peters

W 3:30pm-5:20pm

This interdisciplinary seminar explores not only how media represent the environment but also how they sometimes constitute it. The readings and discussions range widely across theoretical approaches, historical periods, natural environments, and literary and artistic genres. The ultimate question is what kinds of intellectual resources and academic traditions we can mobilize in the name of a habitable planet. This class offers some orientation to media theory generally but more specifically to elemental media theory (also known, without significant difference, as eco-media or environmental media). The dispersive force of eclectic examples will be countered by a conceptual and narrative warp and weft.

FREN 967 (22283)

Aesthetic Cartographies of the Sahara

Jill Jarvis

W 3:30pm-5:20pm

This literature seminar counters an enduring colonial divide between North and Sub-Saharan Africa by taking the African Sahara itself to be a vibrant center of aesthetic and intellectual creation. Drawing key insights from spatial theory, critical cartography, forensic architecture, and material ecocriticism, we investigate the ways that contemporary writers, filmmakers, and artists from across the region are qualitatively transforming the reductive ways in which our planet's largest desert has long been represented. Taking off from a premise that maps are political fictions that reflect and facilitate the kind of power that renders such things as nuclear bombs, toxic uranium mines, and secret detention camps in the Sahara at once justifiable and forgettable, we consider what else might become possible if aesthetic works are taken seriously as counter-cartographies that stake epistemic and ethical claims to supposedly "desert" land.

GLBL 7045 (22412) / LAW 21651

The Law of the Sea

W. Michael Reisman and Gershon Hasin

T 10:10am-12pm

This seminar examines a variety of contemporary issues concerning the law of the sea: piracy, environmental protection, fisheries, maritime security, maritime delimitation, the exclusive economic zone, the continental and outer continental shelves, the deep seabed regime, and the South China Sea. Scheduled examination or paper option. Also LAW 21651. This course follows the LAW school calendar. Enrollment is limited.

HSAR 571 (23000)

Architectural Drawing in the Expanded Field

Morgan Ng

Th 1:30pm-3:20pm

This seminar is built on the premise that drawing permeates all scales, materials, and spheres of the lived environment. It seeks to explode a modern, and fundamentally Eurocentric, notion of draftsmanship as a practice both conceptually and chronologically prior to architectural construction: a practice by which designs first take form in ink, graphite, and pixels on the bounded surfaces or interfaces of paper sheets and computer screens and are subsequently executed on the building site. By contrast, the seminar asks: what if buildings and landscapes are themselves the substrates of line-making? How do histories of design change if architectural drawing is inseparable from the stuff of architecture itself? Topics may include incisions such as sgraffito made on walls and floors, both as ornament and preparatory designs; geoglyphs, plowed fields, pathways, and other large-scale linear inscriptions on the landscape; shadows as ephemeral drawings, whether cast by sundials or by human figures (as in Pliny's myth of the origins of painting); legendary church floor plans that descend from heaven onto the ground; the delineation of spaces with rope and string; weaving, sewing, and embroidery. Although it devotes special consideration to ancient, medieval, and early modern material, this seminar is methodologically capacious, encouraging research projects with diverse chronological and geographical foci.

[Image: Standing Male Figure \(Inca\), 1470-1534](#)



HIST 964 (22067) / ANTH 964 / HSAR 842 / HSHM 692

Topics in the Environmental Humanities

Paul Sabin

W 5:30-7:20pm

This is the required workshop for the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities. The workshop meets six times per term to explore concepts, methods, and pedagogy in the environmental humanities, and to share student and faculty research. Each student pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities must complete both a fall term and a spring term of the workshop, but the two terms of student participation need not be consecutive. The fall term each year emphasizes key concepts and major intellectual currents. The spring term each year emphasizes pedagogy, methods, and public practice. Specific topics vary each year. Students who have previously enrolled in the course may audit the course in a subsequent year. This course does not count toward the coursework requirement in history. Open only to students pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities.

HSHM 713 (20186) / HIST 913

Geography and History

Bill Rankin

W 9:25am-11:15am

A research seminar focused on methodological questions of geography and geographic analysis in historical scholarship. We consider approaches ranging from the Annales School of the early twentieth century to contemporary research in environmental history, history of science, urban history, and more. We also explore interdisciplinary work in social theory, historical geography, and anthropology and grapple with the promise (and drawbacks) of GIS. Students may write their research papers on any time period or geographic region, and no previous experience with geography or GIS is necessary. Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

REL 582 (22123)

Archaeology of the Roman Empire for the Study of New Testament and Early Christianity

Laura Nasrallah

T 1:30-3:20pm

The first portion of the course introduces students to working with archaeological data from the Greco-Roman world (inscriptions, architecture, sculpture, coins). The second portion consists of seminars in Greece and Turkey during May, including some meetings with archaeologists and other scholars abroad. Area I. Prerequisites: some level of reading ability in Greek, Latin, or Arabic; some level of reading ability in German, French, or modern Greek; and previous course work in early Christianity, New Testament, or Classics/Roman history.

REL 677 (22130)

Natural Disasters in the Christian Tradition: Ritual and Theological Responses

Mark Roosien

F 9:30-11:20am

Natural disasters are uniquely productive sites of ritual action and theological reflection, cutting to the core of a group's identity and threatening the stability of theological systems. In the Christian tradition, natural disasters have been critical moments in which the relationship among humans, God, and the world are negotiated, both in ritual action and theological reflection. This seminar explores natural disasters in the Christian tradition by examining ritual and theological responses to environmental catastrophe from early Christianity to the present. The questions raised are: How does environmental instability affect the practice and theory of Christianity? What continuities and discontinuities can be seen in Christian responses to natural disasters across time and space? What resources can the history of disaster responses provide for contemporary religious practice? Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions and write a 10–12-page research paper related to the themes of the course. Students present their work to the class, conference style, in the final two weeks of class. Area II and Area V.

REL 961 (22147)

Eco-Theology, Environmental Ethics, and Fiction

TBA

MW 10am-11:20am

The rapid growth of the environmental humanities in recent years stems from the recognition that the environmental crisis is not simply a problem of policy or technology. It is also – and perhaps more deeply – a problem of our fundamental orientation toward the non-human world. The challenge requires us not only to rethink basic values but also to learn to see ourselves and the world differently. Stories have always been central to how human beings understand themselves and their world. This course begins with the hypothesis that one way to reimagine ourselves and our world is through fiction. It covers most of the issues commonly addressed in courses on environmental ethics and eco-theology. We discuss ethical topics such as anthropocentrism and its alternatives, animal rights, climate change, environmental justice, and theological topics regarding the place of the non-human world in creation, fall, incarnation, and salvation. We do so, however, in an unusual way. Most of our shared texts are fictional. The fiction is accompanied by some short non-fiction texts and mini-lectures in order to introduce analytic categories. The emphasis remains, however, on wrestling with the relevant theological and ethical issues in and through engagement with narratives. Area II and Area V.

REL 962 (23300)

Environmental Ethics

Roberto Sirvent

W 3:30-5:20pm

This course explores practices of stewardship and ecospirituality rooted in anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, and anti-imperial critiques. Students are introduced to topics not commonly discussed in conversations around environmental justice. Corporations, for example, have a long history of polluting Black neighborhoods to maximize profit, and the state has long engaged in genocidal practices that endanger the environmental health of these communities. What does it mean, then, for Christian ethicists—and ethicists of other religious traditions—to address the environmental impact that U.S. housing policy has on Black communities; the many ways that individuals in prison and migrant detention are exposed to toxic environmental hazards; and the role of the U.S. military in fueling the ecological crisis? The seminar explores these and many other topics, including: efforts by Elon Musk and NASA to colonize space, how universities plunder low-income communities, the environmental politics of natural history museums, and the various ways that Indigenous communities in Africa and the Americas fight against practices of extractivism and accumulation. Throughout the course, students also examine how communities of faith and other grassroots organizers engage in collective struggle against environmental racism through direct action, mutual aid, and the creation of what Ashanté Reese calls “Black food geographies.” Area II and Area V.