Course Description:
Environmental history considers how humans have thought about and acted toward nature through time, and how nature itself has changed. Besides introducing the main concepts and debates in the field, “People & Nature through Time” traces a global environmental history, with special emphasis on the concept of the Anthropocene - the era in which humans have made intense, effectively permanent environmental changes on a global scale.

Course Materials:
Seminars are built around a series of readings, together averaging around 300 pages per week. Readings have been made available on the course OWL site, on the internet (linked off the syllabus), and/or through the Western Libraries online system.

Methods of Evaluation:

Seminar participation – 30%
This is a seminar course, and student participation is essential to its success. Students are expected to read all assigned readings and participate in every class.

Book reviews – 2 x 10% = 20%
Twice during the term, students are to write a 750-word book review of a monograph that is being read in whole or in part for the class. (The review is to be of the whole book.) Each review should describe the book’s topic and argument; discuss the significance of its methodology, theoretical framework, and/or findings within the broader literature; assess its strengths and weaknesses; and indicate what questions it raises for further research. Students can submit the reviews on OWL any time prior to the book being discussed in class.

Image essay – due week 6 – 10%
In week 6, the class discusses historical images of nature (and people), as seen in photographs, films, advertising, etc. Students are to write a 750-word essay on an environmental image of their choice – although it cannot be one discussed in detail in any of the assigned readings for that week’s class. They are to treat the images, as Joan
Schwartz states in one of the week’s readings, “not as illustrations but as primary sources.” Students are asked to include a copy of the image in their Word doc.

**Major essay – 40%**
Students are to write an approximately 4-5000-word research paper, with a primary source component, on an environmental history topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor. In keeping with the course, the essay can be on any period and place in history. Bear in mind the importance of having a manageable topic, however, as well as an available and manageable source base.

*introduced in class – week 11 or 12 – 5%*
In an OWL Forum in advance of one of these classes, students will describe their research essay in progress and raise any issue they are facing. In class, they will lead a short discussion to seek input for improvement.

*final essay – due 1 week after final class – 35%*

*The fine print:*
All assignments will be discussed further in class.

All written work is to be submitted through the OWL course site in Microsoft Word form (not as an Adobe pdf, please), preferably with a file name “Last name assignment” (ex. “Smith book review 1”). There is no need to submit a paper copy.

Late essays are penalized 5% per day. Please come to the instructor with any routine requests for extensions. However, a student’s request for accommodation (on medical, non-medical, or compassionate grounds) are to go to the graduate chair, who will consult and communicate with the instructor.

The final date to submit material for the course is **two weeks after the final class**. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

1 **Introductions**

2 **Introduction to Environmental History**

3 **The Anthropocene**
4 Indigenous People & Nature

  - You may also wish to listen to Demuth’s [Greenhouse book talk](#).

5 Energy

  - You may also wish to listen to Zallen’s [Greenhouse book talk](#).

6 Seeing Nature


7 Climate


8 Food & Agriculture


Reading Week

9 Inequality

10 **Critters**
  - You may also wish to listen to Rutherford’s [Greenhouse book talk](#).

11 **(Environmental) History as Literature // essay works-in-progress**

12 **Nature & Nation // essay works-in-progress**

13 **Environmentalism**

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**Additional Statements:**
Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, [https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf](https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf), for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness