HSCI 3473
The History of Ecology and Environmentalism
Associate Professor Hunter Heyck
Office: PHSC 601  Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30 and by appointment
Email: hheyck@ou.edu
Teaching Assistant: John Stewart
Office: PHSC 608  Office Hours: TR 11:30-12:30
Email: johnstewart@ou.edu

In this course we will explore changing ideas of and attitudes towards nature and its exploitation from the Industrial Revolution to the present, focusing on the relationships among science, industrial development, and environmental politics. At the heart of the course is a central theme: ideas about the place of humans in nature are, and always have been, intimately connected to ideas about the proper ordering of human society and the proper relationship between humans and God. A secondary theme is that our developing understanding of nature’s laws and increasing ability to control nature through sophisticated technologies have altered not only our practical relationship to nature but also our moral relationship to it. Simply put, new powers have brought new responsibilities.

Course Mechanics

As a rule, each week there will be three class meetings. All three meetings will be held in PHSC 224. Generally speaking, Mondays will be lecture days, Wednesdays will be discussions oriented around lecture material, and Fridays will be discussion oriented around readings. Both the lectures and the discussions are important to this course, and attendance is expected for every class meeting. Each week (except for midterm weeks), there will be a short quiz on the course D2L site. You are to take this quiz before class meets on Friday. The quiz will be timed, so you will need to have completed the week’s readings and to have reviewed your lecture notes before you start the quiz.

When we meet for discussions, we will divide into small groups. You will remain in the same group all semester unless I decide that it is best to move people around. During each discussion meeting, your group will have a set of questions to answer. Some will be straightforward, and some will require a bit of imagination. You will answer the questions as a group, with one person recording your group’s answers. (The job of recording group answers should rotate.) Your group’s grade will depend on the quality of your written answers and on the quality of the discussion. The more people that participate actively, the better the group grade. You also will be graded on your individual contributions to discussion; twice during the semester you will do a peer evaluation of your group-mates. These peer evaluations will be used to help inform our judgments about your individual participation grade.

In addition to the quizzes and discussion work, there are three other important components of your grade: the midterms, the final, and the final essay. The midterms and final exam will include a mix of short-answer/multiple choice and essay questions. The final essay will ask you to research the history of a current environmental issue. A full description of the final essay requirements, including style/format requirements will be posted on the D2L site.
A word about plagiarism: the essence of plagiarism is to attempt to pass off someone else’s work as one’s own. There is no context in life in which this is acceptable, and this course is no exception. If you have questions about what plagiarism is, what proper citation format is, and so on, please do not hesitate to ask. For more on this topic, see: http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity/

The overall grade breakdown for the course is as follows:

- **Group Discussions:** 12%
- **Individual Participation:** 12%
- **Midterms:** 24% (12% each)
- **Final Exam:** 20%
- **Quizzes:** 12% (total)
- **Final Essay:** 20%

**Books to Buy**
(These are all available in the bookstore and online. All are paperbacks.)

5) Donald Worster, *The Dust Bowl*, (Oxford University Press, 1982)
7) Elizabeth Kolbert, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, (Bloomsbury, 2006)
Course Schedule

Week 1.
Jan. 18. No Class. MLK Day.
Jan. 20. Opening Day. What is science? What is technology? Why study their history?
Jan. 22. Lecture: Arcadia, the Wild, and the Mine—Western attitudes towards nature and its exploitation in the 17th-18th Centuries

Readings:
1) Lynn White, jr., “The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis.” On D2L.
2) Roderick Nash, Wilderness and the American Mind, prologue and chapter 1, pp. 1-22.

Week 2.
Jan. 25. Discussion: ecology, technology, and morality in the 21st Century
   “Reading”:
   1) Go see Avatar.
Jan. 27. Lecture: The Industrial Revolution—Science, Technology, and the Control of Nature
Jan. 29. Discussion: First Nature, Second Nature. (Take quiz 1 online before class.)

Readings:
1) William Cronon, selections from Nature’s Metropolis. On D2L.
2) Hunter Heyck, introduction, overview of part I, and chapter 3 of Artifice, pp. 1-19, 78-103. On D2L.

Week 3.
Feb. 1. Lecture: Depicting Nature—exploration, exploitation, and natural history
Feb. 3. Discussion of lecture
Feb. 5. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 2 online before class.)

Readings:
1) Roderick Nash, Wilderness and the American Mind, chapters 3-5, pp. 44-95.
2) Donald Worster, Nature’s Economy, chapters 1-2, pp. 3-55.
3) William Bartram, selections from Travels. On D2L.
4) William Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey.” On D2L
5) Henry David Thoreau, “The Natural History of Massachusetts.” On D2L

Week 4.
Feb. 10. Discussion of lecture
Feb. 12. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 3 online before class.)

Readings:
2) Charles Darwin, selections from The Origin of Species, in Darwin, pp. 95-174.
**Week 5.**
Feb. 15. Lecture: *Oikonomia and Oecology*—the sciences of resource management
Feb. 17. Discussion of lecture
Feb. 19. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 4 online before class.)
   Readings:

**Week 6.**
Feb. 22. **Midterm 1.**
Feb. 24. Lecture: The Search for Order—conservation, the city beautiful, and the efficient control of nature
Feb. 26. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 5 online before class.)
   Readings:
   1) Meet with TA or Professor to discuss paper topic possibilities.

**Week 7.**
Mar. 1. Lecture: Water and the West
Mar. 3. Discussion of lecture.
Mar. 5. Discussion of reading. (Take quiz 6 online before class.)
   Reading:

**Week 8.**
Mar. 8. Lecture: Drought, Dust, and Disaster
Mar. 10: Discussion of lecture
Mar. 12: Discussion of reading. (Take quiz 7 online before class.)
   Readings:

**Week 9.**
Mar. 15. Spring Break.
Mar. 17. Go Home.

**Week 10.**
Mar. 22. Lecture: The Idea of the Ecosystem
Mar. 24. Discussion of lecture
Mar. 26. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 8 online before class.)
Readings:

**Week 11.**
Mar. 29. **Midterm 2.**
Mar. 31. Lecture: The Ethic of Interdependence
Apr. 2. Discussion of lecture and readings. (Take quiz 9 online before class.)
   Readings:
   2) Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, pp. 6-18, 217-42. On D2L.

**Week 12.**
Apr. 5. Lecture: Beauty, Health, and Permanence--The Origins of the Postwar Environmental Movement
Apr. 7. Discussion of lecture
Apr. 9. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 10 online before class.)
   Readings:

**Week 13.**
Apr. 12. Lecture: The Dismal Science?
Apr. 14. Discussion of lecture
Apr. 16. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 11 online before class.)
   Readings:
   1) Meet with Professor or TA to discuss progress on paper.
   2) Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons.” On D2L.
   3) Donella Meadows, et al, selections from *The Limits to Growth*. On D2L.
   4) Herman Daly, “Economics in a Full World.” On D2L.
   5) Bjorn Lomborg, selections from *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. On D2L.

**Week 14.**
Apr. 19. Lecture: Risk and Reaction--environmental politics from Earth Day to the Sagebrush Rebellion
Apr. 21. Discussion of lecture
Apr. 23. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 12 online before class.)
   Readings:
2) Sagebrush Rebellion documents. **On D2L.**
3) Julian Simon and Herman Kahn, selections from *The Resourceful Earth*. **On D2L.**

**Week 15.**
Apr. 26. Lecture: Popular Ecology. **Final Essay is Due !!!**
Apr. 28. Discussion of lecture
April 30. Discussion of “readings”. (Take quiz 13 online before class.)
Readings (choose **ONE** of the following):
1) Watch *Erin Brockovich*
2) Watch *A Civil Action*
3) Watch *Avatar* (again)
4) Watch *An Inconvenient Truth*
5) Visit a zoo or natural history museum and pay close attention to how its presents environmental issues

**Week 16.**
May 3. Lecture: Global Change
May 5. Discussion of lecture
May 7. Discussion of readings. (Take quiz 13 online before class.)
Readings:
1) Stephen Moore and Julian Simon, selections from *It’s Getting Better All the Time*. **On D2L.**
2) Thomas Friedman, selections from *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*. **On D2L.**
3) Elizabeth Kolbert, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe.*

**Final Exam: Thursday May 13, 8-10 am.**