Environmental History: Themes in Power, Imperialism and Military History
An introduction to environmental history with a focus on North America, but with examples drawn from the field in Europe, Central and South America, and other areas of the world. Themes include military, urban and colonial environmental history, the impact of empires and commodity chains, industrialism and state building. This seminar will especially interrogate the issue of power: how nature and humanity inflect in the past. It will take up three interrelated themes of environmental history: colonialism, imperialism and military history.

Assignments and Evaluation:

**Participation:** 20%
**Book Reviews (2):** 40%
**Term Research Paper:**
- **Proposal:** 10% due Friday October 23
- **Presentation:** 10%
- **Final Submission:** 20%

Term Research Essays (15-20 pages) and Proposals
Students are to base their term papers on research derived from primary sources. Papers should explore an element of environmental history in a topic of their own choosing. They should be sure to draw extensively from secondary academic books and articles to sustain their argument.

Proposals: Students will be required to submit a 2-page proposal: on the first page they should introduce their topic and identify a hypothesis which they are intending to investigate. They should also discuss the key primary sources available for the study. Finally, they should identify the broad currents of the field in which they are engaging and situate the research within it. The page should lay out in short paragraphs the way they see their paper presenting evidence and addressing the hypothesis, with concluding remarks highlighting what is hoped to be achieved in the paper. The second page offers a bibliography of primary and secondary literature.

Term paper presentation: students will circulate a draft of their paper to the others a week before presenting and then articulate the thesis and how it is backed up in a presentation of 20 minutes. This will be followed by questions and comments by the others and the instructor of the seminar.

Final term paper submission: within one week of the end of classes, students submit a revised, final, paper. It is expected that the student has benefited from the peer review in improving the final submission.
Book Reviews (1000 words): twice in the term, students will present a book review to the others critiquing a book, its chief argument and contributions to the field. They should strive to be complete in analyzing the book, from the strength of the evidence it provides (what kind of evidence and its possible shortcomings).

COURSE OUTLINE
Week 1: September 11: Introducing E-History and Seminar Organization


Week 2: September 18: Big picture environmental history


Week 3: September 25: Impact of Empires and Colonialism


Week 4: October 2: The local in the grid of Europe


Week 5: October 9: Book Review presentations: Aboriginal Environmental History: Power and War on the Plains
All to read:

Students to choose either:


**Week 6: October 16: Evolutionary History**

Clay McShane, Chapter 1, “The Urban Horse as a Commodity,” from *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), pp. 18-35.


**Week 7: No readings this week. Students are to complete their term paper proposals and email them to the instructor on Friday October 23. There is no meeting this week.**

**Week 8: October 30: Total War Environments**


**Week 9: November 6: Understanding War and Conflict from Environmental Perspectives**


Week 10: November 13: No class: Reading Days

Week 11: November 20: Book Review Presentations: Modern Warfare

ALL to read:

Students to choose either:


Week 12: November 27: War and Climate


Edmund Russell, Chapter 6, “Total War” (pp.95-118); and Chapter 7, “Annihilation” (pp. 119-144) from *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World war I to Silent Spring*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Week 13: December 4: Paper Presentations

END of SEMINAR

NOTE: Students should follow the Department of History Essay Writing guide (on-line) and adhere to the posted footnote or endnote styles.
Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Need help coming up with a thesis statement? Confused about the proper way to use footnotes? Just want to ask someone about your written assignment for this or any other history class? The Department of History offers small-group and individual writing support for all students registered in a History class from some of our top graduate students. Check with your instructor for the scheduled weekly drop-in times, sign-up for one of the writing workshops, or arrange to meet with our writing tutors individually. More information about this program will be posted on the Department of History web site: hist.ucalgary.ca.

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books in the library reserve room. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright.
Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90–100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85–89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80–84</td>
<td>A–</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77–79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73–76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70–72</td>
<td>B–</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67–69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63–66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60–62</td>
<td>C–</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56–59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–55</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>Grade Point Value</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>0–49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student’s Handbook*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one’s own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author’s language and ideas as one’s own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts’ associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

**Student Accessibility Services:**

It is students’ responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact SAS at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

**Other Useful Information:**

*Faculty of Arts Representatives*: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

*Safewalk and Campus Security*: 403-220-5333.
Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

*Freedom of Information:* [http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy)

*Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:*  
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints)

*Safewalk:* [http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk](http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk)

*Student Union Information:* [http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/)

*Graduate Student Association:* [http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/)

*Student Ombudsman Office:* [http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds)

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