

MGCS 6000B
Global Environmental History

Professor Jenny Leigh Smith

Course Description

This course is a graduate seminar in the environmental history of the world from the early modern period to the present, with a particular focus on the 20th Century. Themes addressed in the class will include the impact of colonization, and decolonization on the environment, the relationship between different modes of governance and environmental health and sustainability, the influence of economic systems and political systems on environmental stability and environmental change. The class will focus in particular on the impact that development and modernization have had on environments in Asia, South Asia and Africa.

Assessment

1. Attend every scheduled class session. Absence from more than one class session, regardless of reason, will imperil your grade. (30% of grade)
2. Read approximately 200 pages each week and demonstrate through a weekly one page written assignment their ability to synthesize and assess works in the history of the environment. (20% of grade)
3. Complete a significant final research project with both a written and an oral component. (30% of grade)

Class Schedule

NO.	THEME
L1	Class Introduction
L2	Foundations
L3	Environmental History and Current Environmental Problems
L4	The Modern State and the Environment
L5	Colonial and Postcolonial Environments
L6	History of Ecology
L7	Development and Environment Part I
L8	Development and Environment Part II
L9	Development and Environment Part III
L10	Development and Environment Part IV
L11-12	Class Presentations

Major Readings

Alfred Crosby. *Ecological Imperialism (selections)*

John McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun (selections)*

Kate Brown, "Gridded Lives," James C. Scott, "Seeing Like a State (selections)

Tania Murray Li *The Will to Improve (selections)*

Michael Lewis: *Inventing Global Ecology (selections)*

Richard White *The Organic Machine*

David Biggs *Quagmire*

Jamie Monson: *Africa's Freedom Railway*

Emily Yeh, *Taming Tibet (selections)*