

HIS 302
Global Environmental History

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Online Asynchronous

Instructor: Donal Thomas

Does the environment really matter across time and space, or do we romanticize the importance of the natural world in our past? This course explores the role of human and non-human forces that have shaped the natural environment in places as diverse as Alaska to Australia, the floodplains of the Nile to the rainforests of Amazon, the tundra of the Arctic to the peaks of the Himalayas from the late fourteenth century to the present. We will examine the impact of nature-human interactions across the globe and how the environment is connected or separated to various political, cultural, social events and movements, such as the Columbian encounter, modern Environmentalism, and many others. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, including academic articles, podcasts, videos, and lectures, as we seek to understand how the past has influenced the environment in which we live now. There will be a short response paper, discussion board engagement, and choice of a final paper or recorded podcast/video for the course. No required textbook; all the course materials will be uploaded on Brightspace.