

Global Toxic History
Spring 2014

Required Books

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (Houghton Mifflin, Anniversary Edition, 2002)

Gabrielle Hecht, *Being Nuclear: Africans and Global Uranium Trade* (MIT, 2012)

David Naguib Pellow, *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*, (MIT Press, 2007)

Joseph Masco, *The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Post-Cold War New Mexico* (Princeton, 2006)

Robert Proctor, *Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition* (University of California Press, 2012)

Javier Auyero and Debora Alejandra Swistun, *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown* (Oxford, 2009)

Adriana Petryna, *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl* (Princeton 2013, reissue edition)

Charles Waugh, Huy Lien, John Balaban, eds., *Family of Fallen Leaves: Stories of Agent Orange by Vietnamese Writers* (University of Georgia Press, 2010)

Rebecca Solnit, *Savage Dreams: A Journey Into the Landscape Wars of the American West*, (University of California Press, 2000)

Elizabeth Fitting, *The Struggle for Maize: Campesinos, Workers, and Transgenic Corn in the Mexican Countryside*, (Duke University Press, 2010).

Films:

On the Beach (1959)

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring (1993)

Safe (1995)

A Civil Action (1998)

Blue Vinyl: The World's First Toxic Comedy (2002)

King Corn: You are What You Eat (2007)

Food, Inc. (2008)

Vanishing of the Bees (2008)

Split Estate: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You (2009) -- Colorado
Tar Creek (2009) -- Oklahoma
Crude: The Real Price of Oil (2009) -- Ecuador
Gasland: Can You Light Your Water on Fire? (2010)
Living Downstream (2010)
More than Honey
Skin that Burns (2012) -- Iran
A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet (2013)
Hot Water: The Uranium Industry's Dirty Little Story (2014)

01/23 Introduction: Global Toxicity

Greg Mittman, Michelle Murphy, Christopher Sellers, "'A Cloud Over History,' *Osiris*, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, Landscapes of Exposure: Knowledge and Illness in Modern Environments (2004), pp. 1-17.

Jody A. Roberts and Nancy Langston, "Toxic Bodies/Toxic Environments: An Interdisciplinary Forum [Introduction], *Environmental History*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Oct., 2008), pp. 629-635.

Rob Nixon, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (Harvard University Press, 2011), pp 1-67.

J.R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World*, (W.W. Norton & Co., 2000), pp 3-18 & 50-83

01/30 Toxicity, Toxicology, and Danger

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Anniversary Edition, 2002)

Linda Nash, "The Fruits of Ill-Health: Pesticides and Workers' Bodies in Post World War II California," *Osiris*, pp 203-219.

Linda Nash, "Purity and Danger: Historical Reflections on the Regulation of Environmental Pollutants," *Environmental History*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Oct., 2008), pp 651-658.

Fritz Davis, "On the Professionalization of Toxicology," *Environmental History*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Oct., 2008), pp 751-756.

Maril Hazlit, "'Woman vs. man vs bugs': Gender and Popular Ecology in Early Reactions to Silent Spring," *Environmental History*, 9 (October 2004), pp 701-729.

Kim Fortun and Mike Fortun, "Scientific Imaginaries and Ethical Plateaus in Contemporary U.S. Toxicology," *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 107, No. 1 (Mar., 2005), pp 43-54.

David Kinkela, *DDT and the American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, and the Pesticide that Changed the World*, (University of North Carolina Press, 2013), pp 1-11 & 106-135

Curits D Klassen, ed., Casarett and Doull's *Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons* (McGraw-Hill, 2008), selections TBD

Sarah A. Vogel, "From 'The Dose Makes the Poison' to 'The Timing Makes the Poison': Conceptualizing Risk in the Synthetic Age, *Environmental History*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Oct., 2008), pp 667-673.

Christopher Sellers, "Body, Place, and State: The Makings of an "Environmentalism" Imaginary in the Post-World War II U.S.," *Radical History Review*, 74 (Spring, 1999), pp 31-64.

02/06 Materiality

Christopher Sellers, "The Artificial Nature of Flouridated Water: Between Nations, Knowledge, and Material Flows," *Osiris*, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, pp-182-200.

Paul Sutter, "Nature's Agents or Agents of Empire? Entomological Workers and Environmental Change during the Construction of the Panama Canal," *Isis*, Vol. 98, No. 4 (December 2007), pp 724-754.

Ronnie Johnston and Arthur McIvor, "Oral History, Subjectivity, and Environmental Reality: Occupational Health Histories in Twentieth Century Scotland," *Osiris*, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, pp 234-249.

Nancy Langston, *Toxic Bodies: Hormone Disruptors and the Legacy of DES*, (Yale University Press, 2010), Chapters 1 and 4

02/13 Disease

Warwick Anderson, "Natural Histories of Infectious Disease:: Ecological Vision in Twentieth-Century Biological Science," *Osiris*, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, pp 39-61.

Julie Livingston, *Improvising Medicine: An African Oncology War in an Emerging Cancer Epidemic* (Duke University Press, 2012), Chapters 2 and 3.

Randall Packard, *The Making of a Tropical Disease: A Short History of Malaria* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011), Selections

Lind Nash, *Inescapable Ecologies: A History of Environment, Disease, and Knowledge* (University of California Press, 2006), pp 170-208.

02/20 Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice

Jill Lindsey Harrison, *Pesticide Drift and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice*, (MIT Press, 2011), Chapters 1 & 2

Rob Nixon, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, (Harvard University Press, 2012), Chapter 3. cut

Michelle Murphy, "Uncertain Exposures and the Privilege of Imperception: Activist Scientists and Race as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," *Osiris*, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, pp2-66-282.

Melissa Checker, *Polluted Promises: Environmental Racism and the Search for Justice in a Southern Town*, (NYU Press, 2005), selections

Luke Cole and Sheila R. Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*, (NYU Press, 2001), selections. (cut)

Laura Pulido, "Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 90, No. 1 (Mar., 2000), pp 12-40.

02/27 Mobilizations

David Naguib Pellow, *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*, (MIT Press, 2007) (library)

Suroopa Mukherjee, *Surviving Bhopal: Dancing Bodies, Written Texts, and Oral Testimonials of Women in the Wake of an Industrial Disaster*, (Palgrave, 2010), Introduction, Chapters 6 and 7. (requested)

Harold Barnett, *Toxic Debts and Superfund Dilemma*, (University of North Carolina Press, 1994), Chapters 2 and 3. (cut)

Suggested Readings:

Phil Brown, *Toxic Exposures: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement*, (Columbia University Press, 2007)

Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*, (Da Capo Press, 1997)

Lois Marie Gibbs, *Love Canal and the Birth of the Environmental Health Movement*, 3rd Edition (Island Press, 2010)

03/06 Toxic Security

Joseph Masco, *The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Post Cold-War New Mexico*, (Princeton University Press, 2006).

03/13 Scale

Pauld Edwards, *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming*, (MIT Press, 2013), selections

J.R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World*, (W.W. Norton & Co., 2000), pp 84-148, 296-324.

Christian Parenti, *Tropics of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geopgraphy of Violence*, (Nation Books, 2012), selections.

Donald Mackenzie, "The Political Economy of Carbon Trading," *London Review of Books* 29:7 (2011), 29-31

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses," *Critical Inquiry* 35 (Winter 2009), pp 197-222.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcolonial Studies and the Challenge of Climate Change," *New Literary History*, Volume 43., No. 1 (Winter 2012), pp 1-18.

03/20 SPRING BREAK

03/27 Dangerous Extractions

Gabrielle Hecht, *Being Nuclear: Africans and Global Uranium Trade* (MIT, 2012)

Kristin Reed, *Crude Existence: Environment and the Politics of Oil in Northern Angola*, (University of California Press, 2009), selections.

Timothy Lecain, *Mass Destruction: The Men and the Giant Mines that Wired America and Scarred the Planet*, (Rutgers University Press, 2009), selections.

Suggested Readings:

Judy Pasternak, *Yellow Dirt: An American Story of a Poisoned Land and a People Betrayed*, (Free Press, 2010).

Larry G. Johnson, *Tar Creek: A History of the Quapaw Indians, The World's Largest Lead and Zinc Discovery, and the Tar Creek Superfund Site*, (Tate Publishing, 2009)

Upton Sinclair, *King Coal*

Thomas G. Andrews, *Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War*, (Harvard University Press, 2010).

04/03 Disaster

Adriana Petryna, *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl* (Princeton 2013, reissue edition)

Kate Brown, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters*, (Oxford, 2013), selections.

Sara Pritchard, "An Envirotechnical Disaster: Nature, Technology, and Politics at Fukushima," *Environmental History* 17 (April 2012), pp 219-243.

Anne Allison, *Precairous Japan*, (Duke University Press, 2013), selections.

Suggested Readings:

Mary Mycio, *Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl*, (Joseph Henry Press, 2005).

Svetlana Alexievich. *Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster*, (Picador, 2006).

Antonia Juhasz, *Black Tide: The Devastating Impact of the Gulf Oil Spill*, (John Wiley and Sons, 2011).

04/10 Toxic War

Rebecca Solnit, *Savage Dreams: A Journey Into the Landscape Wars of the American West*, (University of California Press, 2000)

Charles Waugh, Huy Lien, John Balaban, eds., *Family of Fallen Leaves: Stories of Agent Orange by Vietnamese Writers* (University of Georgia Press, 2010)

Rob Nixon, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, (Harvard, 2010), Chapter 7.

Edmund Russell, *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring*, (Cambridge University Press, 2001), selections.

Robert Neer, *Napalm: An American Biography*, (Harvard University Press, 2013), selections.

Suggested Readings:

Robert Harris and Jeremy Paxman, *A Higher Form of Killing: The Secret History of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, (Random House, 2002).

Jane Dibblin, *Day of Two Suns: U.S. Nuclear Testing and the Pacific Islanders*, (New Amsterdam Books, 1998)

Joost Hiltermann, *Poisonous Affair: America, Iraq, and the Gassing of Halabja*, (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

David Zierler, *The Invention of Ecocide: Agent Orange, Vietnam, and the Scientists who Changed the Way We Think about the Environment*, (University of Georgia Press, 2011).

04/17 Expertise and Ignorance

Robert Proctor, *Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition* (University of California Press, 2012)

Robert Proctor and Londa Schiebinger, *Agnology: The Making and Unmaking of Ignorance*, (Stanford University Press, 2008), selections.

Sheila Jasanoff, "Bhopal's Trials of Knowledge and Ignorance," *Isis*, Vol. 98, No. 2 (June 2007), pp 344-350.

Baraba Allen, "Environment, Health, and Missing Information," *Environmental History* 13 (October 2008), pp 659-666.

Scott Frickel, "On Missing New Orleans: Lost Knowledge and Knowledge Gaps in an Urban Hazardscape," *Environmental History* 13 (October 2008), pp 643-650.

Suggested Readings:

Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*, (Bloomsbury Press, Reprint, 2011).

Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, *Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children*, (University of California Press, 2013)

Barbara Allen, *Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes*, (MIT Press, 2003).

Robert N. Proctor, *Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What we Know & Don't Know about Cancer* (Basic Books, 1996)

Jon Wiener, "Big Tobacco and the Historians," *The Nation* (25 February 2010);

Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, "The Illusion of Medical Certainty: Silicosis and the Politics of Industrial Disability, 1930-1960," *Framing Disease*, pp. 185-205

John A. Hird, *Superfund: The Political Economy of Risk*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).

04/24 Industrial and Imperial Agriculture

Elizabeth Fitting, *The Struggle for Maize: Campesinos, Workers, and Transgenic Corn in the Mexican Countryside*, (Duke University Press, 2010).

Nancy Langston, *Toxic Bodies: Hormone Disruptors and the Legacy of DES*, (Yale University Press, 2010), Chapter 5.

Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-politics, Modernity*, (University of California Press, 2002), pp 19-53.

Angus Wright, chapter in Christopher R. Boyer, ed., *A Land Between Waters: Environmental Histories of Modern Mexico*, (University of Arizona Press, 2012).

Suggested Readings:

Paul Robbins, *Lawn People: How Grasses, Weeds, and Chemicals Make us Who We Are*, (Temple University Press, 2007)

Deborah Fitzgerald, *Every Farm a Factory: The Industrial Ideal in American Agriculture*, (Yale University Press, 2010).

Angus Wright, *The Death of Ramon Martinez : The Modern Agricultural Dilemma*, (University of Texas Press, Reprint, 2005)

05/01 Environmental Suffering

Javier Auyero and Debora Alejandra Swistun, *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown* (Oxford, 2009)

Brett L. Walker, *Toxic Archipelago: A History of Industrial Disease in Japan*, (University of Washington Press, 2011), selections.

Suggested Reading:

Dan Fagin, *Tom's River: A Story of Science and Salvation*, (Bantam, 2013).