This course explores how environment has contributed to shaping societies in the developing world – and vice versa. Our method of study is to ask questions, such as: Are environmental concerns different in developing and developed societies? Are developing societies vulnerable, and do they contribute, to environmental degradation more than developed societies? How does their environmental past influence the present-day? Examples from all regions of the developing world across a wide range of time periods provide our “playground” for asking these questions.

In order to make this ambitious task manageable, we examine these questions within four thematic topics: Transmission of living things, connectedness, natural resources and making things. We also return to each of these themes to examine how the historical ideas carry forward into our world.

Class sessions include lectures, discussions, and visual materials. The readings and lectures for this course draw upon a very wide diversity of sources. Because the topic of the course is not the subject of a textbook and covers a very long time period and large geography we will investigate selective themes in a variety of settings. Grades are based on a take-home mid-term, a take-home final exam, presentation of an individual project and class participation.

Course Requirements

The requirements for the course (with their respective proportion of the final grade) are:

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<tr>
<th>%grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2 Take-home mid-semester essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Take-home final essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Individual (or small group) presentation that applies the issues identified in one of our syllabus topics to a case in a different place &amp; time. We will discuss this assignment in greater detail early in the semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Class participation – based on</td>
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- participation in class discussions
- short, unannounced, in-class writing exercises, based on readings assigned for the class session
- participation in small group discussion sessions
Readings

Available at Rutgers University bookstore; also available as an e-book. (If you look for the e-book, be sure to get the book entitled *Savages* by this author, published by Vintage Books. Other books with the same title are also listed.)

Kane, J. *Savages*

All other readings are available in the Sakai site for the course. You can find them on the Resources page, in the folder labeled Readings.

de Léry, J.; *History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil*, Chs 9 & 13 (pp 69-77 and 100-111.)
Burton, F.R.; *First Footsteps in East Africa* Ch. 4 “The Somal, their Origins & Peculiarities” – pp 98-126
Fagan, B.; *Floods, Famines and Emperors* “Guano Happens,” “ENSO” and “The North Atlantic Oscillation” and Chs. 2 - 4 (p. 23-85)
Pomeranz, K. *The Environment and World History*, “The Transformation of China’s Environment” Ch. 5 (pp. 119-164)
Simon, J.; *Endangered Mexico*, “The Sinking City”; Introduction and Ch. 3 (pp. 1-6 and 60-90).
Jones, T.; *Dessert Kingdom* “Imperial Geology” Ch.2 (pp. 20-53)
Diamond, J., *Guns, Germs and Steel*, Chs. 4-6 (pp. 83-113)
Hellman, J. “Agricultural and Rural Development” and “The Countryside” from *Mexican Lives*, Chs. 5 and 6 (pp. 113-151.)
Wright, A.; *The Death of Ramón González* Ch 1. (pp. 1-9)

Readings to be determined, on:

- Rice
- Industry: Receiving goods & pollution (setting: carbon absorption, deforestation of Amazon & industrial good)
- Urbanization: - New Delhi
- Transmission & connectedness in our time: selection of readings on Ebola 2014/2015
Environmental History of Developing World
Class Sessions

Please note:
The readings, specific activities and scheduling details indicated in this syllabus may change in response our needs & interests

2-Sep  Introduction
      Transmission of living things

8&9-Sep People
Read:
   de Léry, J.; History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil, Chs. 9 & 13 (pp 69-77 and 100-111.)
   Burton, F.R.; First Footsteps in East Africa Ch. 4 “The Somal, their Origins & Peculiarities” – pp 98-126 [pdf 149-178 & images at beginning]

14-Sep Disease
Read:
   Crosby, A.; Ecological Imperialism, Prologue & “Ills” Ch. 9 (pp. 195-216)

16-Sep Food and animals
Read: Coe, S.D. and Coe M. D. The True History of Chocolate Ch. 4, “Encounter and Transformation” (pp. 107-124).

Connectedness

21&23-Sep El Niño, Guano & Monsoons
Read:
   Fagan, B.; Floods, Famines and Emperors “Guano Happens,” “ENSO” and “The North Atlantic Oscillation” and Chs. 2 - 4 (p. 23-85)Chs. 2-4 (pp. 23-85)

28&30-Sep Empire & environment
Read:
   Crosby, A.; Ecological Imperialism, Prologue & “New Zealand” Ch. 10 (pp. 217-268)

Natural resources

5-& 7Oct Water
Read:
   Pomeranz,K. The Environment and World History, “The Transformation of China’s Environment” Ch. 5 (pp. 119-164)
   Simon, J.; Endangered Mexico, “The Sinking City”; Introduction and Ch. 3 (pp. 1-6 and 60-90).

12-Oct Oil & water
Read
   Jones, T.; Dessert Kingdom “Imperial Geology” Ch.2 (pp. 20-53)
   • Questions for your take-home midterm essay will be available after today’s class, on Sakai. Bring any questions that you have to Wednesday’s class.
   • If you have not done so before then, on Wednesday you will need to speak with me about your semester-end project.

14-Oct Discussion of midterm essays: paper-writing, the questions and course content
Arrange individual semester-end projects: Either after class – (or before today) you need to have cleared with me the subject of your project.
Environmental History of Developing World
Class Sessions

19-Oct

Making things

Feeding People: Settled Agriculture
Your midterm essay is due in the Sakai assignment box before the beginning of today’s class.
Read:
J. Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, Chs. 4-6 (pp. 83-113)

21-Oct

Feeding people: Rice
Read:
TBA

26-Oct

Feeding people: Technology
We will see a film clip from *Legacy of the Incas*.
Read:
J. Hellman “Agricultural and Rural Development” and “The Countryside” from *Mexican Lives*, Chs. 5 and 6 (pp. 113-151.)
A.Wright *The Death of Ramón González* Ch 1. (pp. 1-9)

28-Oct

Industry: Creating goods & pollution
The warriors of Qiugang [40 min film]
Watch before class
*Pollution in China* [link to it from the library search page]
Class discussion

2-Nov

Industry: Receiving goods & pollution
Read:
TBA

4&9-Nov

Cities
New Delhi
Read:
TBA
Mexico City
Discussion: 3 cities in 3 countries: China, India, Mexico

Our world

11-Nov

Connectedness& transmission
Read:
TBA, selection of articles on Ebola

16-Nov

Indigenous Peoples
Read:
Kane, J.; *Savages* Introduction & Part 1 – “East” (skim Part 2)

18-Nov

Whose Environment? Whose Environmentalism?
Film: *Amazon Journal*
Read:
Kane, J. *Savages* Part 3 – “Among the Cannibals”
Discussion
- Within the Huaorani communities, what were the debates for negotiating (and ultimately, settling) with “the Company”? Was the outcome inevitable; was it “just”?
- Discuss the differences of perspectives between indigenous peoples and environmentalists.

23-Nov

25-Nov

Thanksgiving
Environmental History of Developing World
Class Sessions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>30-Nov</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Dec</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Dec</td>
<td>Group Discussion Questions</td>
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<td>We will work in groups to consider questions that cover the important conclusions that we can draw from all of the material we have covered in the semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Dec</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
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<td>Group Presentations</td>
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- Questions for your take-home final essay will be available after today’s class, on Sakai. Bring any questions that you have to Wednesday’s class.