



UNSW
SYDNEY

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ARTS3242

Environmental History

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Nicolas Rasmussen	N.Rasmussen@unsw.edu.au	posted on Moodle	Morven Brown 314	9385-2361 (no messages)

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Environmental Humanities*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisations: *History*

In this course you will gain a global perspective on our modern environmental condition and its development, since the beginnings of civilisation. You will learn about environmental crises affecting societies in the past and how these led to collapse or to adaptation, learning lessons that may be applied to present problems, as well as the origins and flaws of the ideas through which we understand the environment itself. Specific topics include: the co-evolution of human species and the domesticated plants and animals on whom we depend; religion, economics, and the treatment of the Earth in medieval and early modern Europe; the impacts of population growth and the industrial revolution; imperialism and its ecological and social effects; evolving ideas of nature's limitations and how to cope with them; ecological science's changing image of nature; and the emergence of contemporary environmentalism.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. identify, analyse, and apply a range of specific examples of past environmental change in relation to human society, useful for comparison to today's environmental challenges.
2. identify key examples of scholarship and core concepts in the field of environmental history, and relate these examples and concepts to those of other disciplines and areas of history.
3. analyse the strengths and weaknesses of key environmental history examples and core concepts, their implications and their suitable applications in understanding environmental challenges today
4. employ core concepts of environmental history in independently constructing own evidence-based reconstructions and explanations of past human-environment interactions and their consequences

Teaching Strategies

Lecture topics in this course are organised both chronologically and thematically. Each week features a key moment in historical human-environment interactions together with key concepts and scholarship interpreting it. The tutorial discussion that week deals with the key concept(s) and occurs in small groups assigned questions requiring application and critique of the concept(s). Marking the oral responses of the groups P/F helps motivate discussion. This is a collaborative assessment ensuring that all students can at least identify the core concept(s) of the week and what it is supposed to do. If a buzz group applies the week's core learning to their question and offers a coherent answer, individual students in the group may not share the P mark if they are observed not to participate at all in their discussion.

Together these discussion questions all relate to a weekly concise essay question and help students prepare to write it up. Each student must write two such concise essays in the course of the term and have the option of a third (the best two counting). The concise essays require students to explain, apply, and critique the core concept(s) featured that week.

There is also a research essay requiring students to engage in an extended exploration of some moment

in the history of human-environment interactions and employing concepts and examples acquired in the course to interpreting it. The topic is chosen from a menu or, with approval and constructive assistance at the planning stage, designed by the student.

Finally there is an in class test covering the range of concepts and periods discussed in the course, with questions requiring comparison across weekly themes. This is to ensure that students cannot achieve a high mark without learning the contents of more than just two weeks content.

Assessment

The tute discussions will focus on questions closely related to the short essay topic for the week, and are intended to prepare you to write on the topic. For you to benefit, you should be sure to do the reading for that week carefully in advance. This will greatly assist you if you choose to write up the week's short essay.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Two concise essays.	30%	one week after topic is given (at the end of class session)	2,3
Research essay	45%	03/05/2019 04:00 PM	1,3,4
In class final test	15%	24/04/2019 01:00 PM	1,2,3
Buzz group 'quiz' participation	10%	Not Applicable	1,2

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Two concise essays.

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 700 words (1000 max)

Details: Brief essay requiring analysis and application of key concept from the lecture and readings for the week, one topic set per week. Students must complete any two such essays in the term, provided that one is done in the first 5 weeks (to allow timely feedback). Each is worth 15%, and is about 700 words. If students submit a third weekly essay, best two will count. Feedback via return of numerical mark and comments.

Additional details:

Weekly essay topics will be provided via Moodle at the end of each session (by 5pm), due the next week via Moodle pathway (by 4pm)

Submission notes: essays to be uploaded through designated submission pathway on courses Moodle site

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Research essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2700

Details: About 2700 words. Numerical mark and written comments transmitted by email. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Additional details:

A selection of possible essay topics will be provided via Moodle early in the term.

Submission notes:upload essay to designated portal on Moodle site

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: In class final test

Start date: 24/04/2019 12:00 PM

Length: 800

Details: Students choose two from menu of questions, all of which require integration of subject matter across weeks, and answer each with 1-2 paragraphs. No word minimum but tests typically are 600-800 words. Numerical marks and brief comments available by email on request.

Submission notes:in class test during W10 tute period

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 4: Buzz group 'quiz' participation

Start date: weekly in tute session

Length: n/a

Details: Students are divided into groups during tutorials and each group is given a question related to the week's lecture, readings, and optional essay topic. After an interval groups present their answer to the whole class orally for discussion. Answers are marked Pass/Fail for application of weekly core idea(s). If a Pass mark is awarded all students in the group get a mark of 1 (1% of course grade), unless complete non-participation in small group discussion is observed. Students are notified by email if they did receive a Fail mark in a given week on this basis and are reminded to participate with the group. Maximum of 10% over course of the term.

Submission notes:no written submission involved

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of tutorials will result in the award a fail grade.

In tutorials you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain CLO 1 and CLO 3.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	<p>Topic: Course processes and housekeeping; what is Environmental History?; A visitor's guide to the Cenozoic; hunting, gathering, and the origins of agriculture.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau <i>Nature and Power</i> (Cambridge, 2008), pp 36-71</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Lecture	<p>Topic: Water and power in the Ancient world; first high civilisations and their demise</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: pp 75-103</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 3: 4 March - 10	Lecture	Topic: Ecology, the fall of Rome, medieval

March		<p>sustainability and its end</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: pp 103-117, 131-157</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	<p>Topic: Nature versus the Reformation, Capitalism, and the New Science; Conquistadores and biological determinism</p> <p>Readings - Radkau 157-164</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>See readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	<p>Topic: Biological imperialism; Nature's Economy in the Age of Reason</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: pp 164-169, 184-194</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	<p>Topic: Industrial revolution and Romantic reaction; markets and masses; breaking energy, space and time constraints</p>

		<p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: pp 195-226</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	<p>Topic: Industry's first environmental crisis; public health and progressive reform; nationalism, conservationism, and preservationism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: 226-249</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	<p>Topic: Second Industrial Revolution and second crisis; science and state in dirty 1930s; WW2 and the great acceleration</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: 250-265</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Tutorial	Discussion of weekly readings and lecture topic
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Homework	Reading week. There is no lecture or tute this week; you should work on your Research Essay.
	Homework	No tute, work on your Research Essay.
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Lecture	Topic: Cold War, green revolution, and the institutionalisation of environmental protection; transnational environmentalism of the current era

		<p>Readings:</p> <p>Radkau book: 265-330</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>Other readings for this week on course Moodle site (through Leganto portal)</p>
	Assessment	In class final test during tute period.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

You should obtain your own copy of the book, *Nature and Power*, by Joachim Radkau (Cambridge, 2008), available at the UNSW Bookstore

All other readings should be available online through Leganto, accessible via the course Moodle site. If you cannot access Leganto at all, please request IT support. If a particular reading proves impossible to access in Leganto, please email the Convenor IMMEDIATELY so the Library can be asked to rectify the problem promptly, or the Convenor can supply the reading by another means.

The weekly readings designated above in the Schedule section are PROVISIONAL. If there is a change to the readings schedule, details will be posted well in advance on the course Moodle site.

Recommended Resources

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

Previous feedback has been taken into account for the new 10-week form of the course. Future versions will respond to results of the My Experience survey. When you take it, please offer specific constructive suggestions.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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