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Current Themes and Debates in Global Environmental History 2015

As a result of the global challenges of sustainability and environmental change Environmental History has taken on a new role, directly addressing issues of sustainability today. In a series of lectures, renowned researchers with competences from different parts of the world, present their views of what environmental history is and what questions it can ask. Lecturers will also present case study examples of socio-environmental dynamics and how to investigate them from different parts of the world. Debates as to the role of environmental history in addressing issues of importance today and in shaping and reshaping public debate will also be part of the course.

The course is a collaboration between CSD Uppsala and Department of Archaeology and Ancient History. It has been organised by studentrepresentatives from the Global Environmental History programme. A course reference group (see above) has also formally accredited course content and reading.

The course is structured on the basis of a series of discussion seminars that are mandatory (they are marked in bold below). **To fulfill the requirements of the course you have to attend at least 10 course events (usually discussion seminars).¹ Note that the events 21/4, 5/12, 27/10 are mandatory. You must also personally lead and organise at least one**

¹ If students are not able to attend 10 events due to internships or exchange programmes special assignments can be designated and/or students can participate via skype or videolink at the discretion of the course organisers but only after mutual agreement.

seminar event (including planning the pedagogic organisation of the seminar, contact with the lecturer/researcher discussed in the seminar) (see more instructions below).

Usually the seminar is followed by a lecture, and attendance here is recommended, but not mandatory. Individual assignments are linked to each discussion seminar and also a final 5 page essay (see more instructions below). We will work with the discussion forum function <http://cemusstudent.se/forums/f/courseforum/current-debates-and-themes-in-global-environmental-history/> and the following webbportal: <http://cemusstudent.se/mgeh/>

All assignments should be posted here and they will be open to all course participants. **Always write your name and linked seminar event at the header of the document you submit.** As a guidance when it comes to how to reference, language and formalities use the “Guidelines for Ma thesis GEH”. We will also use Progress to register participation and fulfilment of linked tasks.

Examination

Lead and chairing discussion seminars: Students should together with one additional student lead and plan at least one discussion seminar (which includes pedagogical planning, formal contact with the lecturer/researcher in question. The pedagogic planning for each seminar must be discussed with Cemus representative prior to the seminar. Please also pick one or two seminars you would be interested in chairing

Reflections: The discussion seminars are linked with individual assignments, c. 1 page reflection, as specified in the schedule. The reflection should be submitted to student portalen (discussion forum) and will be open for the whole course to share. The organisers of the discussion seminar are welcome to direct the assignment according to the chosen pedagogy of the event

Commenting other student’s texts: Students should read and comment at least 1 of their colleague’s assignments each time when it comes to individual assignments. This should be done with 2 days after the seminar and the discussions in studentportalens discussion forum will be chaired by the organisers of the linked discussion seminar

Final examination and grading: The course will be examined with a final essay (maxim 5 pages) consisting of a diary of the lectures and associated reflections and your own reflection summarising the course. Note that grades will be based only on this final assignment.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the students will:

- be able to demonstrate an overall knowledge of environmental history as a field
- exemplify and broadly account for the potential and problems related to Environmental History as field
- be able to argument and debate the role of Environmental History
- demonstrate an ability to associate contemporary and current debates with historical questions and historical sciences
- be able to frame historical research in contemporary and current debates
- be able to lead and chair seminars

Complementary tasks (if are unable to attend all 10 seminars)

If you are doing a student exchange, internship or study trip over a longer time period and therefore will not be able to attend 10 seminars (or planned to attend but was unable to attend due to sickness or other acceptable reasons), first contact the course coordinator and inform her. If the course coordinator/s find that you have an acceptable reason you will be asked to submit a complementary task. These are specified already here:

- Read the literature and read all your fellow students reflections on discussion forum and also post a 2 page reflection on the discussion forum.
- If you cannot attend the events **21/4, 5/12, 27/10** contact the course organiser for complimentary assignments.

Schedule

Course events are marked in bold. You must attend at least 10 course events and the events 21/4, 5/12, 27/10 are mandatory. Contact the course organiser if you cannot attend these events for a complimentary assignment.

1. Tue 12 Jan: Finale and new beginning

Reading: No reading required before this event.

Instructions: Write a short review (eg a summary) on three of your 2nd year colleagues presentation, describing the aims of the project, methodology and theoretical frames and possible implications of the student (0.5 each). Select one of the subjects presented for an in depth study, follow up sources and literature (1 page. Post reflections on course portal 26 of January 18.00.

10-11 Introduction to the thesis and current debates course (Anneli Ekblom, 2nd year course group, 1st year course coordinator).

13-17 Research presentations from 2nd year students.

2. Wed 12 Feb: Donald Worster on Environmental History

Student organiser: Meghan Buurmans

Reading: Worster, Donald (2004 [1979]). Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s (304 pp).

Wed 12 feb 9-10 Introduction to Cemus and pedagogic planning (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Wed 12 feb 10-12 Discussion seminar with Donald Worster. (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Tue 13 feb 13-15 (venue to be announced) Mind & nature open seminar with Donald Worster “Shrinking the Earth: From an Age of Abundance to an Age of Limits”

Instructions: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 28 jan 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow student’s text (first in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar. If you are in the end begin the count again from the start, use the same procedure for remaining seminars) before 29 jan 18.00.

3. Tue 3 March: River History

Student organiser:

Reading: Hohensinner S., B. Lager, Ch. Sonnlechner, G. Haidvogel, S. Gierlinger, M. Schmid, F. Krausmann & V. Winiwarter (2013): Changes in water and land: the reconstructed Viennese riverscape from 1500 to the present. In: Water History 5 (2), pp. 145-172.

<http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12685-013-0074-2.pdf>,

Hohensinner S., Ch. Sonnlechner, M. Schmid & V. Winiwarter (2013): Two steps back, one

step forward: reconstructing the dynamic Danube riverscape under human influence in Vienna. In: Water History 5 (2), pp. 121-143.

<http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12685-013-0076-0.pdf>

Preparation see the interview with Verena Winiwarter:

<http://seeingthewoods.org/2014/02/13/an-interview-with-verena-winiwarter-austrian-academic-of-the-year/>

Tue 3 March 10-12 Discussion seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Tue 3 March 13-15 (2K1024) "Reconstructing Urban Development at a Moving River: Interdisciplinary Opportunities for Environmental Historians" Open Mind & Nature lecture. Skype lecture with Verena Winiwarter

Instructions: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 14 feb 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow student's text (2nd in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 15 feb 18.00.

4. Integrated History for People on Earth

Reading: Chapters from the book Sustainability or Collapse?: An Integrated History and Future of People on Earth (Dahlem Workshop Reports),

Costanza, R., Graumlich, L.J., Steffan, W. (eds) Chapter 1, Sustainability or Collapse?: An Integrated History and Future of People on Earth, 3-19.

Redman et al: Group report Millennial perspectives, 115-149.

Dearing et al Group report Centennial perspectives, 243-275.

Hibbard et al Group report decadal scale Interactions, 341-378.

Young et al Group report future scenarios, 447-471.

Tue 3 March 10-12 Discussion seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Tue 3 March 13-15 English Park Campus ENG 2K-1028. Mind & Nature open lecture. Kim von Hackwitz: IHOPE. Reconnecting to the [Historical Ecology workshops](#).

Instructions: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 4 March 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow student's text (3rd in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 5 March 18.00.

5. Tue 24 March: Urban ecology workshop

Reading: More information is coming.

Student organiser:

24 March 13-17 English Park Campus ENG 2K-1024. Urban ecology workshop

Instructions: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 25

March 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow student's text (4th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 26 March 18.00.

6. Mon 30 March: Governance and the Arctic

Student organiser:

Reading:

Nilsson, Annika E 2012. The Arctic Environment – From Low to High Politics. *Arctic Yearbook 2012*. http://www.arcticyearbook.com/images/Articles_2012/Nilsson.pdf

Nilsson, Annika E 2013. Arctic Resilience Interim Report 2013. Stockholm Environment Institute and the Stockholm Resilience Centre. <http://sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/ArcticResilienceInterimReport2013-LowRes.pdf>

+ selected chapter in any of the Arctic yearbooks

30 March 9-11 Discussion seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

30 March, 13:15-14:45 Annika E. Nilsson, SEI/KTH / Miyase Christensen, Stockholm University/KTH “Arctic governance and the questions of ‘fit’ in an era of globally transformative change” (included as a course event in GEH “Current debates in global environmental history”).

Instruction: Read the literature and prepare 5 interview questions for Annikas lecture at KTH. Follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 31 March 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow student's text (5th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 1 April 18.00.

7. Tue 21 April: Pre-opposition on Ma theses.

Reading: selected thesis text from 2nd year Ma students. Preparation we meet before and discuss the process of opposition on Tuesday 14 April 13-15 Lilla GIS.

21 April 13-16 Preopposition of theses Lilla GIS

Instructions: You will be opponents in a pre-opposition seminar, follow the instructions in the “Guidelines for the Master's thesis Instructions and Guidelines for Master's students in Global Environmental History” note you only have 30 mins for opposition so prepare the seminar well. Note that this event is mandatory, contact the course organiser if you cannot attend for a complimentary assignment.

8. Tue 5 May: Past solutions for future transitions

Societal shifts are necessary to meet the challenges required for a more sustainable society. However, we must have the tools to shape these new paths, we need to know which

conversions that are more sustainable than others and where we want these changes to lead. Many of the current debates on food security, the best way to manage natural resources and the links between technology, society and development, climate shifts and social security etc has recurred throughout history. Many of the various options available to us today have been tested and evaluated in the past.

Preparation: The task for this event is to select a key problem area for sustainability today and search and select literature and case studies that can provide solutions or perspectives to selected key problem area. You can work in a group or individually. You can pick a problem area that lies close to your own research –or not. The case studies you prepare may be used in the first environmental history block in the first cycle programme of sustainable development at Cemus. If selected you may also be assigned the roles as mentors.

- 1) Define a key problem areas
- 2) Search relevant literature and make a short review of content
- 3) Write a short case study description for 1st year undergraduate students

*Instructions: Submit on 6 of May 18.00 in discussion forum. You will grade each others work and make reflections during presentations. Note that this event is linked to another event in sept/October. **Note that this event is mandatory, contact the course organiser if you cannot attend for a complimentary assignment.***

Tue 5 May 9-13 case study presentations (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

9. Mon 25 May: Actors, networks and resilience in urban landscapes.

Student organiser:

Reading: Erntsson, H. (2008) In Rhizomia. Actors, networks and resilience in urban landscapes.

http://www.stockholmresilience.org/download/18.7f35af211c3ec4f1b1800011957/Erntson_2008_In_Rhizomia_Thesis_21%5B1%5D.pdf.

Instructions: Check Erntssons webpage <http://www.rhizomia.net/>. Read his thesis. Prepare questions in the group for the afternoon seminar. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 26 of May 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow students text (6th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 27 of May 18.00.

9-11 Discussion seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

13-15 Henrik Erntsson, lecture Stockholm University/KTH

10. Tue 29 Sep Mind & Nature excursion

Student organiser: The whole group organises excursion for the Modern Natures course together with Gunnel Cederlöf and Mind & Nature similar to what was done in 2014.

Reading: selected by yourselves.

Instructions: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 1st of October 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow students text (7th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 2nd of October 18.00.

11. Tue 6 oct : (preliminary) The example of Greenland and Iceland

Student organiser:

Reading: Andrew J. Dugmore, Thomas H. McGovern, Orri Vésteinsson, Jette Arneborg, Richard Streeter and Christian Keller 2012. Cultural adaptation, compounding vulnerabilities, and conjunctures in Norse Greenland. PNAS 2012 109 (10)3011-6.

Vesteinsson, Orri; Church, Mike; Dugmore, Andrew; McGovern, Thomas; Newton, Anthony. 2014. Expensive errors or rational choices: the pioneer fringe in Late Viking Age Iceland. European Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies, 4, 39-68.

Instruction: A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 7th of October 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow students text (8th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 7th of October 18.00.

Tue 6 Oct 10-12 Discussion seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Tue 6 Oct 13-15. Still open

12. Tue 20 Oct. This event is still open

Student organiser:

Reading:

Preparation:

Instruction: A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 21st of October 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow students text (9th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 22nd of October 18.00.

Tue 20 Oct 10-12 Discussion seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Tue 20 Oct 13-15.

12. Tue 27 Oct: A debate with Carole Crumley

Student organiser: The whole group organises seminar with Carole Crumley, discuss organisation of the seminar, pedagogic content etc.

Reading: Carole Crumley 2007. Historical Ecology Integrated thinking on multiple scales. In: Hornborg, A., Crumley C. The world system and the Earth system. Left Coast press. + two selected chapters from this book.

Preparation:

Instruction: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 1st of October 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow students text (8th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 2nd of October 18.00.

This event is mandatory contact course organiser if you cannot attend for a complimentary assignment.

Tue 27 Oct 10-12 Planning seminar (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

Tue 27 Oct 13-15 Chairing of the session with HA students

13. Tue 17 Nov: Nature, narrative and Environmental History

Student organiser:

Preparation: View William Cronon's "Conversations with History" Interview with Harry Kreisler, April 2013. <http://www.williamcronon.net/biography/cronon-kreisler-interview-april-2013.htm>. Read the texts and look at Cronons webpage <http://www.williamcronon.net/>. Read the literature.

Reading: Cronon, William (1996). The trouble with wilderness: getting back to the wrong nature (69-90). In: Cronon, William (ed) Uncommon ground.

Cronon, William (1993). The Uses of Environmental History. Environmental History Review, 17(3), 1-22.

Cronon, William (1992). A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative. Journal of American History 78(4), 1347-1376

Instruction: Read the text and follow instructions given by the student organisers. A 1 page reflection according to instructions given by the student organisers must be submitted on 1st of October 18.00 in discussion forum. You must also comment a fellow students text (8th in the list of course participants after you that attends the seminar) before 2nd of October 18.00.

Tue 24 March 10-12 Discussion seminar on William Cronon, nature, narrative and Environmental History (Cm 122 e, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16)

14. Tue 12 Jan: Presentation of thesis proposals

Tue 12 Jan 13-17 Presentation of thesis proposals according to the same procedure in the beginning of the course.

This event is mandatory contact course organiser if you cannot attend for a complimentary assignment.