

**HIST 132-02 Advanced Topics in World History:
World Environmental History
Fall 2022 – 4 units**

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Xiaojia Hou
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Office Hours:	TU/TH, 9:15-10:15 AM & by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	TU/TH, 12 PM – 1:15 PM
Classroom:	DMH 167

Course Description

This 4-unit course introduces students to the dynamic field of environmental history in the modern era. It focuses on relationships between humans and the nonhuman world, exploring the environmental consequences and context of major themes in modern world history, including capitalism, industrialization, urbanization, colonialism, and warfare. The course combines the general survey and case-study approaches.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Describe and explain major events and themes in world history, **assessed by essay questions on exams.**

CLO2: Describe and explain essential concepts, concerns, and methods in environmental studies. **Assessed by essay questions on the exams and essay writing.**

CLO3: Apply the concepts, concerns, and methods learned in class to analyze historical events and themes. **Assessed by long essay questions on exams, presentations, and essay writings.**

CLO4: Present their findings to the classmates, respond to critiques, and learn to constructively critique the work of other classmates. **Assessed by class discussion, and presentations.**

CLO5: Write historical essays with a strong thesis and clear evidence of historical thinking. **Assessed by essay questions on exams, essay proposal and essay writing.**

Required Texts/Readings

Marks, Robert. *Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Environmental Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century*.

Miller, Shawn William. *Environmental History of Latin America*.

Fenn, Elizabeth. *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82*.

Other Readings

James Scott, *Seeing Like A State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*.

Additional documents and articles will be posted on the Canvas site, as indicated by * in the syllabus. Doing the reading assigned for each class before coming to class is necessary to benefit from what we do in class. The tentative course schedule indicates details on the readings and the dates by which reading assignments must be completed.

You should also own a History style guidebook to consult for your writing assignments, such as Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*, 7th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2016) ISBN 9781457690884 or Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013) ISBN 978-0226816388 or Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to Writing in History*, 13th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2016) ISBN 9781319027513.

Library Liaison

The History Department Library Liaison is Nyle Monday (nyle.monday@sjsu.edu). Contact him for help with any library assignments in your History classes. His telephone number is (408) 808-2041.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one hour of in-person class time. Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings. Assignments include reading the textbook, reading assigned documents, accessing supplementary material through Canvas, taking exams, making oral presentations and writing multiple papers. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 8-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. **Each week Students will read about 100 pages of material.** Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

This class intends to improve students' skills such as critical thinking, oral expression, and analytical writing. The instructor will hold **workshop** to discuss how to make a historical argument and how to put together a

historical essay. Students will learn to develop a research question suitable for a one-semester historical research project and work on the case study. Students will write one essay proposal, and one essay on one of our course themes. This class strongly encourages students to express their opinions. It includes two rounds of students' presentations. Students will also take one midterm exam and one final exam.

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours to review proposals and writings.

Details on Assignments.

Exams. Students will take one mid-term exam and one final exam.

Quizzes.

Presentations. Students are expected to make two presentations. A short one on the proposal and a long one on his/her own research.

Essay Proposal. Write a brief narrative describing how you come up with a topic, how you find materials relevant to that topic, how you assess your materials, how you organize your research, **due Oct 27.**

Final Essay

The final essay must be between 5 and 10 pages of prose. It should include an introduction; historical narrative and analysis supporting your thesis; a conclusion; and a source bibliography, **due Dec 11.**

All written assignments, with the exception of exams, must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font), and have one-inch margins. **Written assignments will be graded on both content and composition.**

Grading Information

Midterm exam	160 points
Short presentation +essay proposal	50 points
Long presentation	100 points
Quizzes	150 points
Essay	200 points
Final exam	240 points
Class participation	100 points
Total	1000 points

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

Come to class on time and remain in your seat while class is in session. Do NOT interfere with other students' learning. Do NOT chat, interrupt, pass notes, eat noisily, take calls, check messages, or text in class. Students who come and go repeatedly may be prohibited from reentering. If you have a question during class, raise your hand. There will always be time for questions and discussion at the end of the class period.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

HIST 132 World Environmental History

Fall 2022 Course Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change with fair notice as announced in class or posted on Canvas. Please follow the Canvas Instruction.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	August 23 & 25	Tuesday: Introduction Thursday: History of Environmental History Readings: Marks, Robert. <i>The Origins of the Modern World</i> , introduction McNeill, J. R. "Observations on the Nature and Culture of Environmental History." <i>History and Theory</i> 42, no. 4 (December 1, 2003): 5–43. *
3	Aug. 30 & Sept 1	Tuesday: Material, Trading World and Empire before 1500 Thursday: Asia at 1400 Readings: Marks, Robert. <i>The Origins of the Modern World</i> , chapter 1-2
4	Sept 6 & 8	Tuesday: Latin America at 1400 Thursday: The Columbian Exchange Readings: <i>Environmental History of Latin America</i> , chapter 1 "The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas" *
5	Sept 13 & 15	Tuesday: Empires and the New World Thursday: Latin America, 1500-1600 Readings: Marks, Robert. <i>The Origins of the Modern World</i> , chapter 3 <i>Environmental History of Latin America</i> , chapter 2 Fenn, Elizabeth. <i>Pox Americana</i> , chapter 1-3
6	Sept 20 & 22	Tuesday: Smallpox in America Thursday: Ecologies of Disease Readings: Gregg, Mitman, Michelle Murphy, and Christopher Sellers, "A Cloud over History" *

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Fenn, Elizabeth. <i>Pox Americana</i> 4-8
7	Sept 27 & 29	Tuesday: Resource Use and Colonialism Thursday: Case Study: Latin America Readings: Marks, Robert. <i>The Origins of the Modern World</i> , chapter 3 <i>Environmental History of Latin America</i> , chapter 3-4
8	October 4 & 6	Tuesday: Review Thursday: Mid-term Exam
9	October 11 & 13	Tuesday: The Industrial Revolution Thursday: Great Diverge Readings: Marks, Robert. <i>The Origins of the Modern World</i> , chapter 4-5 Kenneth Pomeranz, "Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization"*
10	October 18 & 20	Tuesday: Seeing like a State I Thursday: Seeing like a State II Readings: Chapters from <i>Seeing Like A State</i> . *
11	October 25 & 27	Tuesday: presentation of proposals Thursday: Workshop on how to write a historical essay Essay Proposal Due Oct 27 (Online Submission)
12	November 1 & 3	Tuesday: Water- Consumption, Irrigation and Power Thursday: Case Study - The Yellow River Readings: <i>Environmental History of Latin America</i> , chapter 5 Xiaojia Hou, "Elapsed Century of A Forgotten Province" *
13	November 8 & 10	Tuesday: Population and Urbanization Thursday: the Cold War and Environments Readings: Marks, Robert. <i>The Origins of the Modern World</i> , chapter 6 "The Role of Urbanization in Environmental History" in Hays, Samuel P. <i>Explorations in Environmental History</i> . * Goldewijk, Kees Klein. "Three Centuries of Global Population Growth: A Spatial Referenced Population (Density) Database for 1700-2000." <i>Population</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<i>and Environment</i> 26, no. 4 (March 1, 2005): 343–367. *
14	November 15 & 17	Tuesday: Presentations 1 Thursday: Presentations 2
15	November 22 & 24	No Class, Thanksgiving.
16	Nov 29 & Dec 1	Tuesday: Presentations 3 Thursday: Presentations 4
17	Dec 6	Tuesday: Review and Discussions
Final Exam	Dec 8	9:45 AM -12 PM
Final Essay	Dec 11	Online Submission