

ECOLOGICAL CHANGE IN NORTH AMERICA

INSTRUCTOR

Erik Jules

REACHING THE INSTRUCTOR

Office: Science D, Rm. 169

Office Hours:

Tuesday 12:00-1:00

Wednesday 9:00-10:00

Thursday 11:00-12:00

Phone: 826-3346; Email: esj4@humboldt.edu

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS

There will not be a required textbook for this course. Instead, you will access reading via Blackboard: <http://blackboard.humboldt.edu/>. A wide range of readings will be used – including chapters in both textbooks and scholarly books, as well as articles in journals.

COURSE GOALS

There are three main goals of this course:

1. Learn how people have influenced their environment at different times in history.
2. Learn to critically evaluate claims about environmental change.
3. Develop the skills to express ideas orally and in writing.

GRADING

Grades will be based on exams and quizzes only. All exams and quizzes are cumulative, in that ideas and topics developed since the beginning of the course are always testable.

Final grades will be based on the traditional scheme of $\geq 90\%$ = A, $\geq 80\%$ = B, etc... I will consider individual cases for students with scores near boundaries.

POINTS:

Quizzes	4 x 25 pts
Mid-term Exam	100 pts
Final Exam	150
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>350 pts</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

MISSED EXAMS: If you need to take one of the exams on a different date, you must talk with me at least two weeks beforehand. Missed exams cannot be made up, other than in the case of emergencies.

MISSED QUIZZES: Same as for missed exams.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments turned in late will be marked down 15% each day they are late. If you have circumstances which warrant a different due date, you must discuss this with me at least a week in advance.

CHEATING: If you cheat or plagiarize, you will lose all points for that exam or assignment, and the incident will be reported to the University.

EXAMPLE SYLLABUS

LECTURE SCHEDULE – ECOLOGICAL CHANGE IN NORTH AMERICA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPICS</u>	<u>QUIZZES</u>
Jan 18 Jan 20	Introduction to the Questions; North American Climates and Biota	
Jan 25 Jan 27	Post-Pleistocene Changes: Distribution Changes & Palynology Post-Pleistocene Changes: Natural or Mediated By People?	
Feb 1 Feb 3	Estimating Population Size of Native Americans Estimating Population Size of Native Americans	Quiz I
Feb 8 Feb 10	Assessing Native American Influences on Forests Assessing Native American Influences on Grasslands and Deserts	
Feb 15 Feb 17	Review & Catch-up day Early Exploration by Europeans: Disease and Invasive Species Introductions	
Feb 22 Feb 24	Introduction to Early Settlement: Forest Clearing, Agriculture, and Hunting Early Settlement, continued...	Quiz II
Mar 1 Mar 3	Habitat Loss and The Theory of Island Biogeography Forest Fragmentation in Eastern North America	
Mar 8 Mar 10	MID-TERM EXAM Consequences of Hunting, Trapping and Invasive Species in Eastern NA	EXAM
Mar 15 Mar 17	SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK	
Mar 22 Mar 24	Early California – Missions & Other Invasions Early California – Mining	
Mar 29 Mar 21	Effects of Westward Expansion on Forests & Grasslands Effects of Westward Expansion, continued....	
Apr 5 Apr 7	Effects of Hunting and Trapping in Midwest and Great Plains An Industry Moves West – Logging of Old-Growth in the West	Quiz III
Apr 12 Apr 14	Logging of Old-Growth in the West, continued... Logging of Old-Growth in the West, continued...	
Apr 19 Apr 21	Dams & Irrigation – A movie! <i>Cadillac Desert</i> Some Local History	
Apr 26 Apr 28	Invasive Species of the West Fisheries – A movie! <i>Taking Stock</i>	Quiz IV
May 3 May 5	Reforestation, Wetlands, & Urban Sprawl Review	
May 12	FINAL EXAM – 3:00 - 4:50	FINAL

EXAMPLE SYLLABUS

READING SCHEDULE

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>READING</u>
Jan 18 Jan 20	Cronon, W. 1995. <i>The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature</i> . Pages 69-90 in W. Cronon (editor). <i>Uncommon ground: toward reinventing nature</i> . Norton, New York.
Jan 25 Jan 27	<i>The Mammoths' Demise</i> . <i>Discovering Archaeology</i> , September/October 1999, pgs. 30-47.
Feb 1 Feb 3	Mann, C.C. 2002. <i>1491</i> . <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> , March, pgs. 41-53.
Feb 8 Feb 10	Whitney, G.G. 1994. <i>Preservers of the ecological balance wheel</i> . Pages 98-120 in G.G. Whitney, <i>From coastal wilderness to fruited plain: a history of environmental change in temperate North America from 1500 to the present</i> . Cambridge University Press, New York.
Feb 15 Feb 17	Vale, T. 1999. <i>The myth of the humanized landscape: an example from Yosemite National Park</i> . <i>WildEarth</i> 9:34-40.
Feb 22 Feb 24	Foreman, D. 2001. <i>Around the campfire: the pristine myths</i> . <i>WildEarth</i> 11:1-5.
Mar 1 Mar 3	Whitney, G.G. 1994. <i>Assault upon the forest. Part I. The farmer</i> . Pages 131-171 in G.G. Whitney. <i>From coastal wilderness to fruited plain: a history of environmental change in temperate North America from 1500 to the present</i> . Cambridge University Press, New York.
Mar 8 Mar 10	MID-TERM EXAM
Mar 15 Mar 17	SPRING BREAK
Mar 22 Mar 24	From Merchant, C. 1998. <i>Essays on mining</i> . Pgs. 120-139.
Mar 29 Mar 21	TBA
Apr 5 Apr 7	Hirt, P.W. 1994. <i>A conspiracy of optimism: management of the National Forests since World War Two (Introduction only)</i> , Pages. xv – I.
Apr 12 Apr 14	No reading
Apr 19 Apr 21	R.N. Mack, D. Simberloff, W.M. Lonsdale, H. Evans, M. Clout, and F. Bazzaz. 2000. <i>Biotic invasions: causes, epidemiology, global consequences and control</i> . <i>Issues in Ecology</i> 5:1-20.
Apr 26 Apr 28	Schiermeier, Q. 2002. <i>How many more fish in the sea?</i> <i>Nature</i> 419:662-665.
May 3 May 5	Alan, E. 2001. <i>A flight from extinction: the Aleutian goose becomes a unique Endangered Species Act success story, causing local celebration and challenge</i> . <i>Jefferson Montly</i> , March issue: 8-13.
May 12	FINAL EXAM – 3:00 - 4:50