

HSTR 101E: The Environmental History of the World

Instructor: Jason Colby

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Course Description:

This course explores the human interaction with and remaking of the global environment. Although spanning the full history of *Homo sapiens*, it will focus particularly on the past 500 years, utilizing the interdisciplinary tools of environmental history. Course material is structured around three global transformations: first, the radical exchange of previously unconnected biota after 1492; second, the epochal shift from human reliance on muscle, solar, and wind energy to fossil fuels; third, the post-World War II transition to the “Anthropocene,” which has been marked by explosive human demographic and economic growth, carbon-driven climate change, and species eradication.

Proposed Assignments:

20%: Attendance and Class Participation

10%: Two In-Class Quizzes

35%: Two In-Class Exams

35%: Final Paper/Project

Proposed Reading List (subject to change):

Lieberman/Gordon, *Climate Change in Human History* (2018)

Pearkes, *A River Captured* (2016)

Selected readings posted on CourseSpaces