This course examines the historical changes in attitudes of Americans toward the natural environment. In order to understand American views toward nature, it is necessary to examine the prevailing European attitudes that accompanied the explorers of the 1400s, 1500s, and 1600s. Those views will contrast with the beliefs of the native people of America. From there the course will trace the advance of European-rooted philosophy and practice across the North American continent. Since environmental history encompasses several disciplines, we will be evaluating economic, social, cultural, geographic, and scientific issues throughout the course. The first part of the course (up to the midterm) will cover material to the early 20th century. The remainder of the course will focus on land, water, and resource issues of the 1900s and early 2000s.

BOOKS

The main source material for the course is the History 173T/ES 173 Reader that can be purchased at SBPRINTER in the UCEN.

EXAMS

There will be an in-class midterm scheduled for Friday November 3. The exam will include readings in Sections One through Five of the reader, and lecture material.

There will be an in-class final exam with essays that will incorporate the last five sections of the reader. There will be two essays on the exam, which will begin at 12:00pm and conclude at 2:30pm on Thursday, December 14 in the regular classroom.

The midterm is valued at one-third of the final grade, and the final is valued at two-thirds of the final grade.

SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 29 INTRODUCTION

WEEK OF OCTOBER 2 EUROPE COMES TO AMERICA
   Reading: Reader, Section One.
WEEK OF OCTOBER 9 COLONIAL AMERICA
   Reading: Reader, Section Two.
WEEK OF OCTOBER 16       TRAILBLAZERS, PIONEERS, AND TECHNOLOGY
   Reading: Reader, Section Three.
WEEK OF OCTOBER 23       ROMANTICISM, THE ENLIGHTENMENT, AND UTILITARIAN CONSERVATION
   Reading: Reader, Section Four.
WEEK OF OCTOBER 30       TOWARD HETCH HETCHY
   Reading: Section Five (MIDTERM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3)
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6       THE PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS
   Reading: Reader, Section Six (begin).
   Friday, November 10, Veterans Day Holiday, no class
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13       THE TWENTIES AND THE NEW DEAL
   Reading: Reader, Section Six (complete).
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20       WORLD WAR II AND WILDERNESS
   Reading: Reader, Section Seven.
   Note: Thursday and Friday, Thanksgiving holidays (no class Friday).
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27       THE COMING OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
   Reading: Reader, Section Eight.
WEEK OF DECEMBER 4        WATER RESOURCES AND POLLUTION
   Reading: Reader, Sections Nine and Ten.

FINAL IN CLASS THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 12:00-2:30

Please turn off cell phones during class and during exams.