ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY RESEARCH & WRITING

University of California, Santa Barbara
Fall 2012

Instructor: Peter Alagona
Office Hours: HSSB 4231, 2:00-4:00 pm
Regular Time & Place: M 9 am-12 pm, Girvetz 1106
Additional Meeting: One required day-long field trip, Friday, November 30, 6:30 am-8:30 pm

OVERVIEW

This course will provide an introduction to California’s environmental history and the methods scholars use to study it. Environmental history is the study of how humans have interacted with their environments over time through science, technology, politics, law, culture, and material biophysical relationships. Students in this course will conduct readings, engage in seminar discussions, participate in workshops, write an original research paper, and take one day-long field trip to visit some key sites in the environmental history of the south and central coast.

The goals of this course are for you to:

1. Develop a broad understanding of California’s environmental history, with a particular focus on the south and central coast from Los Angeles to San Francisco
2. Acquire a working knowledge of basic theories and concepts in environmental history
3. Gain the skills necessary to conduct original research in environmental history
4. Write a high quality original research paper that could serve as a writing sample or basis for further study

COMPONENTS

Seminars: For the first seven weeks of the quarter, we will meet once each week for a seminar discussion based on the readings. Readings will usually include one or two pieces on a south or central coast of California environmental history topic, and may include additional pieces related to research or writing methodology. You must read all of the assigned materials for each week before class. We will not have seminar discussions during the final three weeks of class so that you can focus on your research papers.

Field Trip: During the quarter, you will participate in one day-long field trip. Attendance on the field trip is required to pass the course. During the field trip, each student will be required to give a 5-minute presentation on the historical significance of one of the sites we visit. You will sign up for your site ahead of time. Please note that the date of the field trip is November 30, or December 7 if cancelled due to inclement weather.

Attendance: You must attend all seminars and field trips. Any unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. I will only give exemptions for medical or religious reasons, with arrangements made ahead of time.

Final Paper: The term paper will include 4 components: an “elevator pitch,” a proposal, an outline, and a final essay of 18-22 pages, or 5200-6300 words. For more information, see below.

Final Grade: seminar participation (20%), field trip presentation (5%), term paper elevator pitch (5%), term paper proposal (5%), term paper outline (5%), term paper final draft (5%).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>• Agenda and logistics</td>
<td>• None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10/10  | 2    | • Methods: (1) Library and digital research, (2) Visit by Janet Martarana, UCSB Environmental Studies librarian  
|        |      | • Historical Theme: Chumash history                                    | • Week 2 reading                      |
| 10/17  | 3    | • Methods: (1) Archival research, (2) Visit to UCSB Special Collections, (3) Types of sources for use in historical research  
|        |      | • Historical Theme: Coastlines                                        | • Week 3 readings                     |
| 10/24  | 4    | • Methods: (1) Reading the landscape, (2) Visit to UCSB Map & Imagery Laboratory, (3) Proposal writing  
|        |      | • Historical Theme: Fire                                              | • Week 4 readings  
|        |      |                                                                       | • *Elevator pitch*                    |
| 10/31  | 5    | • Methods: (1) Oral history interviews, (2) Repeat surveys & photography  
|        |      | • Historical Theme: Rangelands                                        | • Week 5 readings  
|        |      |                                                                       | • *Paper proposal*                    |
| 11/7   | 6    | • Methods: (1) Narrative in environmental history                      | • Week 6 readings                     |
|        |      | • Historical Theme: Water                                              |                                      |
| 11/14  | 7    | • Methods: (1) Editing and giving helpful feedback                      | • Week 7 readings  
|        |      | • Historical Theme: Urban environments                                  | • *Paper Outline*                     |
| 11/21  | 8    | • No regular class meeting                                             | • No readings                         |
| 11/28  | 9    | • No regular class meeting                                             | • No readings  
|        |      | • Full-day field trip: Friday, November 30, 7 AM to 7 PM               | • *Field trip presentations*          |
| 12/5   | 10   | • No regular class meeting                                             | • No reading                          |
|        |      | • Alternate date for field trip (if 11/30 cancelled due to weather): Friday, December 7, 6:30 am to 7:30 pm |                                      |
| 12/12  | Finals | • Final paper due on Wednesday, December 12, by 3 pm, in the History Department (HASC) office, HSSB 4000 | • *Final paper*                      |
**Readings**

There are no required texts in addition to the assigned readings in the digital reader. You can download a PDF version of the digital reader at:

Each week, you should either bring the digital copy of your reader on a notebook or tablet computer, or print out the assigned readings for discussion.

**Week 1:**
- Agenda and logistics
- No reading.

**Week 2:**
- Methods: (1) Library and digital research, (2) Visit by UCSB librarian
- Historical Theme: Native American environmental history

**Week 3:**
- Methods: (1) Archival research, (2) Visit to UCSB Special Collections, (3) Types of sources for use in historical research
- Historical Theme: Coastlines
- Readings:

**Week 4:**
- Methods: (1) Reading the landscape, (2) Visit to UCSB Map & Imagery Laboratory, (3) Proposal writing
- Historical Theme: Fire


**Week 5:**
- Methods: (1) Oral history interviews, (2) Repeat surveys & photography
- Historical Theme: Rangelands
- Readings:
  - Oral history best practices

**Week 6:**
- Methods: (1) Narrative in environmental history
- Historical Theme: Water

**Week 7:**
- Methods: (1) Giving helpful feedback
- Historical Theme: Urban environments

**Week 8:**
• No regular class meeting
• No readings

Week 9:
• No regular class meeting
• No readings
• Full-day field trip: Friday, November 30, 6:30 am to 7:30 pm
• Field trip presentations

Week 10:
• No regular class meeting
• No reading
• Alternate date for field trip (if 11/30 cancelled due to weather): Friday, December 7, 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

Finals Week:
• Final paper due on Wednesday, December 12, by 3:00 pm, in the History Department (HASC) office, HSSB 4000

Field Trip

Presentations:
Below, you will find a list of 8 sites we will visit during our whirlwind one-day field trip. I would like you to pair up with another student in the class, and together sign up for one site. You and your partner will be responsible for giving a 10-minute presentation on the site and its significance in California's environmental history.

1. Painted Cave State Historic Park (Chumash rock art)
2. Santa Ynez River (steelhead management & restoration)
3. Bradbury Dam and Lake Cachuma (water management)
4. Morro Bay (coastal processes and marine protected areas)
5. Montaña de Oro State Park (endemic & endangered species)
6. Los Osos Valley (California grizzly)
7. Montaña de Oro State Park (eucalyptus grove)
8. Rancho Marino (UC Natural Reserve System)

Schedule:
• Morning
  6:45 Meet in parking lot 27 behind HSSB
  7:00 Depart
  7:30 Painted Cave State Historic Park (1)
8:30  Bradbury Dam overlook & Santa Ynez River (2,3)
11:00 Morro Bay overlook (4)
11:30 Montaña de Oro dunes (5)
Afternoon
12:00 Lunch at Spooner’s Cove & Los Osos Valley Presentation (6)
1:00 Montaña de Oro eucalyptus grove (7)
2:00 Rancho Marino (8)
5:30 Dinner at Oceanfront Pizza in Cayucos
6:30 Depart for Santa Barbara (about a 2-hour drive)

Other Details:
I will be taking everyone out for dinner in the evening, but you should arrive in the morning with all food, beverage, and personal items you’ll need for the day contained in a single day pack. This includes a shade hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy shoes (sneakers are fine), a warm layer, and wet weather gear if the forecast looks marginal. You may also want to bring a camera and binoculars if you have them. You should be sure to bring a notebook and any materials you’ll need for your presentation.

We will arrange rides ahead of time and rent a van if necessary.

Final Paper

The final term paper should be 18-22 pages (5200-6300 words) long. It should draw from primary and secondary sources to offer a an original argument about an environmental history issue, event, or process. Your topic is your choice, but I am more than willing to help you define the scope and objectives. A California focus is recommended but not required. I suggest you consider using this course to work on a topic that interested you in a previous class or one you hope to work on further in the future.

The final paper involves 4 steps: the elevator pitch, proposal, outline, and final draft.

1. For the elevator pitch (October 24, 5%), you should plan to give a 1-minute presentation on your idea for a research paper. Your colleagues will then have a couple minutes to ask questions and contribute feedback to help you develop your proposal.

2. Your proposal (October 31, 5%), should comprise a 1-page synopsis of your project. In it, you should define the topic, describe its importance, articulate a research question, and provide a (hypo)thesis as a prospective answer to that question. In addition to the prose portion of the proposal, you should also include a list of no more than 5 references, or sources, you have identified through your preliminary research. Describe the significance and relevance of each source in 1-2 sentences.

3. Your outline (November 14, 5%) should flesh out the details of your paper, including its structure and narrative. You may want to begin with section breaks to show major transitions. Organize your outline so that each paragraph has a number, and key points or sources for use in the final paper are listed as letters or bullet points within each paragraph. If each paragraph has a number, and paragraphs average about half a page each, then the outline for an 18 to 22-page paper should include 36 to 44 numbered paragraphs.
4. Your final paper (December 12, 40%) should be 18 to 22 pages (5200 to 6300 words), with 1 to 1.5-inch margins and 10 to 12-point font. Feel free to choose whichever font you prefer. The paper can use any organizational format you desire, but it should include the following three components:

- Abstract: A 150-word statement that summarizes the problem, significance, question, thesis, and approach. You can use or updated and revised proposal as a template, or even draw from the introduction.

- The main body of the manuscript, 18-22 pages or 5200-6300 words, with footnotes in Modern Language Association (MLA) format, which is what historians use.

- A list of references cited in the appropriate MLA citation style.