

HUMA 2597: Global Environmental History
Fall 2019 Tues/Thurs 9:00-10:20 Rm 6602 (Lift 31-32)
Dr. Jenny Leigh Smith, Room 2378 jenny.smith@ust.hk
Office hours: 10:30-11:30 Tues / Thurs & by appointment
TA: Mark Kevin Cabural, mkcabural@connect.ust.hk

Course description: This course provides students with an introduction to the field of environmental history focusing on the past one hundred years of environmental change around the globe. The course will explore different themes in environmental history, including the environmental impact of humans, the history of sustainable development, environmental justice movements and national programs of nature conservation.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will evaluate at least eight central topics in environmental history: conservation, sustainable development, ecology, environmental justice, pollution, climate change, natural disasters, environmental politics, they will analyze and critique intellectual arguments using primary and secondary sources, and they will present clear and well-argued reasoning to defend or refute historical arguments about topics in environmental history both in writing and in oral presentation

Assessments:

- **Quizzes:** There will be two quizzes, each worth 10% of the final grade. (20%)
- **Final Exam:** There will be a final exam, worth 20% of the final grade. (20%)
- **Participation:** Students may either answer a daily discussion question or submit a thoughtful online response to the same question that takes into account the opinions and perspectives of classmates who responded during class. Each recorded response is worth 3 points. For full credit, students need to respond **8 times** during the course of the term. (24%)
- **Presentation:** Students will present in small groups or solo on a topic in the history of the environment. These presentations can be scheduled any time after October 2. A sign up sheet for topics, presentation times and a rubric for this assignment will be provided. (18%)
- **Written Assignment:** Students will select a short primary or secondary source from a provided list, and write a response essay relating their source to one of the first six course modules. The essay should be approximately 800 words in length. (18%)

Academic Integrity: Don't cheat. If you need clarification on what counts as cheating at HKUST, please visit the "integrity" section of ugadmin.ust.hk Cheating will be punished.

Class Schedule

Module One: Fresh Water

September 3: Course Introduction Local Topic: Hong Kong Water Supply

September 5: Regional Topic: Harnessing hydropower in China

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September 10: Global Topic: Water Privatization
September 12: Watch film Blue Gold on water privatization

Module Two: Oceans

September 17: Local Topic: plastics on Hong Kong shorelines
September 19: Field Trip & Show and Tell collect trash samples from on campus beaches
September 24: Regional Topic: Natural and Human Terraforming in Asia
September 26: Global Topic: SCUBA diving

Module Three: Pollution

October 3: **Quiz #1**/ local topic: light pollution and air pollution in Hong Kong
October 8: regional topic: air pollution in China
October 10: global topic: pollution by radioisotopes

Module Four: Agro-ecology

October 15: Local Topic: livestock diseases in Hong Kong
October 17: Regional Topic: food & disease in Hong Kong/ Green Revolution in Asia
October 22: Regional/Global Topic: Green Revolution
October 24: Global Topic: Agricultural Sustainability

Module Five: Conservation

October 29: Local Topic: Hiking trails and Country Parks in Hong Kong
October 31: Regional Topic: Conserving Tigers and Elephants in Asia
November 5: **Quiz #2** Global Topic: The rise of environmental NGOs
November 7: Global Topic: The rise of NGOs

Module Six: Sustainability

November 12: Local Topic: Terraforming in Hong Kong (landslides and reclamation)
November 14: Regional Topic: a history of recycling in Asia **Review Essay Due**
November 19: Global Topic: Carbon footprints: the history of an ecological idea **Last Day to Schedule Presentation**

Module Seven: Activism

November 21: Local Topic: student-led activism
November 26: Regional Topic: Environmental activism in the developing world
November 28: Last class/ course review

Final Exam Date & Time: TBA

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