

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#) [Edit](#)

HUMA 6002T: Global Environmental History

Dr. Jenny Leigh Smith hmsmith@ust.hk office #2378

In this course, students will read book excerpts and articles about topics related to global environmental history including but not limited to the history of conservation, history of agriculture, history of the environmental impact of development, a history of pollution, a history of industrialization, and history of resource exploitation. Students will write a weekly response paper or submit a weekly response video. They will also help lead class discussions, and students will produce a research paper as a major final project for the class.

Grading:

- **Participation:** Students should plan to attend every class, pay attention in class and watch any assigned pre-recorded lectures or other media. The participation assignment will alternate between brief video responses and short written response papers. Both styles of responses will be submitted through Canvas. (25%)
- **Final Evaluation:** At the end of the course students are expected to be able to identify the authors studied in class as well as key themes and to match authors and key themes with representative writings and major arguments. Students are also expected to summarize the main arguments of the assigned readings. This evaluation will be a recorded, one on one meeting with the professor that will take the place of the last class. (25%)
- **Final Paper:** Students will write a final paper that incorporates class readings but also includes significant further independent research into a topic of the student's choice. Part of the grade for the final paper will be earned by handing in smaller assignments (paper topic, paper outline, bibliography) by the assigned due dates. (50%)

Feb 25: What is Environmental History?

- **Juan Martinez-Alier:** Environmentalism of the Poor, chapter 1 (15 pages)
- **John McNeill:** Observations on the Nature and Culture of Environmental History (40 pages)
- **Bao Mahong:** Environmental History in China (19 pages)

Mar 3: Epidemics

- **Zinsser** Rats, Lice and History
- Environmental History Forum
- **Honigsbaum** (SARS in Hong Kong)

Mar 10: History of a Natural Resource: Fresh Water

- **Robin Wall Kimmerer** (the Pond section)
- **Judith Carney** Gambian Wetlands
- **Chihyung Jeon** River Restoration in Seoul

Mar 17: Agriculture

- Worster, Donald (2017), *The Good Muck: Toward an Excremental History of China*
- **From Globalized Pig Breeds to Capitalist Pigs: A Study in Animal Cultures and Evolutionary History** Sam White,
- Courtney Fulilove: The Profit of the Earth, Ch. 1 The Museum of Seeds

Mar 24: Microhistory

- **William Turkel**, The Archive of Place Preface and chapter 1
- LeRoy Ladurie Montaillou: Chapter 1 The Environment and Authority
- Rosenthal, A Storm in Samoa

Mar 31:

April 7: Urban Environmental History

April 14: Animals: Domesticated

April 21: Animals: Wild

April 28: Macrohistory

May 5:

May 12: No readings this week: schedule reading exam

Dams Linda Nash, Nick Damming Afghanistan, Up the **Yangtze** (Yung Chang, 2007)

Development: Tania Murray Li on Land, Corinna Unger on a Delhi slum

History of a Natural Resource: minerals

Pollution: Kate Brown, Sara Pritchard,

Humans and other Animals: