NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

HST 481
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

COURSE CREDIT:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
PREREQS: Upper-division standing. HST 201, HST 202, HST 203 are recommended.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

HST 481. ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (4). A study of human interaction with the environment and the transformation of the landscape and ecology of North America from the Indian period to the present, with special attention to the progressive alterations induced by the modernizing world of agriculture, industry, urbanism, and their relation to the market system in the United States. Not offered every year. (H) (Bacc Core Course).

CONTACT INFORMATION:
For more information, contact the Instructor, Linda Marie Richards at richarli@oregonstate.edu or phone 541-740-3341
Or DAVID BISHOP, 322B Milam Hall, 541-737-8918.

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the ECampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.

LEARNING RESOURCES:
Richard Tucker, Insatiable Appetite: the United States and the Ecological Degradation of the Tropical World (Concise revised edition)

Ted Steinberg, *Down to Earth: Nature’s Role in American History* (3rd edition)


**NOTE:** For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

**COURSE SPECIFIC MEASURABLE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**Learning Outcomes**

Undergraduate students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Evaluate the cultural and intellectual roots of environmental thought
2. Connect history to ecology and the environmental sciences
3. Discuss the relationship between political ideology and natural resource use
4. Analyze changing attitudes toward wilderness, wildlife, and biodiversity
5. Explain the historical background of contemporary environmental issues

In addition to the above, graduate students should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in analyzing historical texts
2. Demonstrate ability to utilize primary source materials in crafting historical and historiographic arguments
3. Articulate and evaluate standards and practices
4. Formulate understanding of an original thesis

For online (Ecampus) courses, student learning outcomes must be identical to those in the on-campus course, even though the mode of delivery and course content might differ.

Student learning outcomes are learner-focused statements reflecting what a student will be able to do as a result of an instructional activity. Each outcome statement should start with a measurable action verb that indicates the level of learning, followed by a precise description of the learned behavior, knowledge, or attitude. Bloom's Taxonomy is a useful tool for choosing action verbs that accurately describe a desired level of student learning.

For example, an OSU faculty member will be able to:

1. Identify an appropriate action verb from Bloom’s Taxonomy that describes a particular level of learning.
2. Describe the desired behavior a student will be able to exhibit upon successful completion of a course.
Slash (4xx/5xx) courses must have differentiated learning outcomes for graduate and undergraduate students (i.e. two separate sets of learning outcomes listed on the syllabus).

Baccalaureate Core, include category specific learning outcomes (verbatim) with course specific measurable student learning outcomes, as well as an explanation of how these outcomes will be achieved and assessed. See http://oregonstate.edu/ctl/baccalaureate-core.

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

This course focuses on the changing perception of human relationships with nature throughout the term. Our class relies on each student’s commitment to being in a community of learners. Required readings are supplemented by environmental and history of science articles that span concepts ranging from nuclear waste, international diplomacy and the first Earth Day.

This course combines reading with online activities including weekly discussion, a scaffolded three step assignment with peer review that builds to an Essay Review of three articles, two midterms and a final exam for 4 credits. Essay exams are open book. All students are expected to participate in the online class discussion board with the most open-minded approach to each other’s views and are responsible for polite and respectful language at all times. Successful completion of this course partially fulfills OSU’s Baccalaureate Core requirements in the Synthesis category of Science, Technology, and Society.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Undergraduate students will be evaluated on a strict point basis in the following assignments: 2 midterms (30 points, 15 pts. each); one final exam (20 points); one Article Essay paper (10 points); discussion participation (20 points or 2 pts. for each week for ten weeks), peer reviews and drafts submitted to Canvas on time (20 points, or 6.6 pts for two, of three draft rounds, 6.8 for your draft Essay Review). This totals 100 points possible.

Grading scale: A (94-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D+ (67-69); D (64-66); D- (60-63), F (0-59)

COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION

Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our Getting Started with DAS page.
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT (OSU POLICY)**

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

- [Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses](#)
- [Policy On Disruptive Behavior](#)

**PLAGIARISM**

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

- [Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct](#)
- [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#)

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu, or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

- COURSE DEMO
- GETTING STARTED

TUTORING

For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

- Writing Center
- Online Writing Lab

STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING

The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION

Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.