HIST 4500 – Canadian Environmental History: Cities and Hinterlands

#yorkhist4500 🏏

Fridays 11:30am to 2:30pm Department of History Instructor: Sean Kheraj Office: Vari Hall 2124

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm; Fridays 10:00am-11:00am

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Course Description

In a 1954 Canadian Historical Review article, J.M.S. Careless argued that "the functioning of metropolitanism may do more to explain the course of Canadian history than concepts of frontierism borrowed from the United States and set forth before the significance of the modern metropolis was clear." The Metropolitan Thesis, as it became known, examined the interrelationship between cities and hinterlands in Canadian history and the central role that this relationship played in the development of the modern Canadian state. This course explores metropolitanism in the context of Canadian environmental history. Environmental history examines the reciprocal relationship between humans and non-human nature from a historical perspective. HIST 4500 addresses the changing impact of human populations, their technologies, and their ideas on the natural environment, as well as how climate, topography, plants, and animals have enabled, constrained, and altered the path of human societies within the context of city and hinterland environments.

Organization of the Course

The course involves three-hour seminar sessions once per week. These sessions will combine discussion of key concepts and themes from course readings with student presentations and group work. All listed readings are mandatory and essential to completion of this course. Active oral participation is crucial to success in this course. Overall, students will focus on a single major research essay assignment over the course of the year along with a literature review in the first semester. They will work closely in small groups to aid one another in the preparation of their papers and other assignments.

This course will also include online participation using Moodle and Twitter. Students are encouraged to follow the **#yorkhist4500** hashtag on Twitter for course announcements, discussion questions, and other relevant course information. Students may also participate in online discussion forums on Moodle for each week.

Readings

Required Textbooks:

Colpitts, George. Game in the Garden: A Human History of Wildlife in Western Canada to 1940. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002. ISBN 0774809620

Forkey, Neil S. Canadians and the Natural Environment to the Twenty-First Century. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0-8020-4896-7

Harris, Richard. Creeping Conformity: How Canada Became Suburban, 1900-1960. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004. ISBN 0802084281

Stunden Bower, Shannon. Wet Prairie: People, Land, and Water in Agricultural Manitoba. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011. ISBN 9780774818537

In addition to the textbooks, this course uses online readings available through our course Moodle site. Readings listed under a particular week should be read by Friday of that week. Discussions depend upon students having done their readings.

Assignments and Evaluation

The grade for the course will be based on the following percentages:

Presentation	15%
Research Essay Proposal	5%
Literature Review Essay	20%
Research Essay	30%
Discussion participation	25%
Research cluster participation	5%

General Rules, Policies and Expectations

Please make sure that all work that you hand in and present for this class is your own. The university takes this issue very seriously. We expect you to be familiar with all of the university policies relating to academic integrity found here: http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/. Violations of the York Senate Policy on Academic Honesty – including submitting work written by someone else or submitted in another course, failing to use quotation marks and citations when using or paraphrasing the printed or electronically-transmitted work of others, collaborating on written assignments, cheating during examinations, and aiding or abetting academic misconduct – will be treated severely. Recent penalties have included failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University, and withholding or rescinding a York degree. For further information, see http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=69.

Assignments should be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Please double-space all written assignments and print them in standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Include your name and the assignment's title at the top of the paper (no separate title pages necessary). All sources should be books and journal articles (i.e., no internet sources unless obtained from the library's e-resources) and should be cited, using the Chicago Manual of Style (http://www.library.yorku.ca/eresolver/?id=996235), in **footnotes**. You must also provide a properly formatted bibliography for each assignment. Only hard copies of assignments will be accepted; no electronic copies please. Students may submit email copies of assignments only as a

date-stamp. Do not slide assignments under the instructor's office door. Assignments placed in the History Department drop box will not be date-stamped and will only be considered received on the date the instructor retrieves the assignment from his mailbox. Please also keep copies of all drafts and rough work.

Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one letter grade per day (i.e., if one day late, an A paper receives a B+) up to a maximum of five days. **After five days, assignments will not be accepted.** We will consider exceptions to the lateness penalty only when they are supported by authoritative written documentation (i.e., a doctor's note) or they can be legitimately substantiated. Students may not request deadline extensions within one week of a due date.

We will accommodate students with disabilities working with the York University Learning Disability Services office (http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds/). Please contact the instructor directly to make sure we are informed of your needs. If you will require any kind of accommodation for religious reasons, please let us know as soon as possible. Attendance is otherwise mandatory (see "Course participation" section below).

Research Essay Proposal

All students are required to submit a short 2-3 page research essay proposal along with a 1-page bibliography. This assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

Literature Review Essay

All students are required to submit a literature review essay of 9-10 pages in length along with a bibliography. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

Research Essay Due: April 5

For the research essay assignment, students will complete a 15-16 page essay on any topic in Canadian environmental history relating to metropolitanism (city-hinterland interrelationship). Students must make use of a minimum of one substantial historical primary source document for this assignment. Your essay must make an argument, relying for support upon additional secondary source research. The purpose of this assignment is to show your competence in the following areas: analysis of primary sources; ability to comprehend, analyze and think critically about course issues and themes, relating these issues and themes to your primary source(s); forming and defending an argument; writing (content, structure and style). We will discuss possible topics in class and we also expect that you will meet with the instructor about your chosen topic before you start to write.

Presentation

In the final weeks of the course, all students must complete an in-class presentation based on the research essay assignment. This presentation will be between 8-10 minutes in length. Please consult the detailed assignment description on the course website.

Due: October 19

Due: November 16

Course participation

Your active participation in class is essential, and we will measure it in a variety of ways. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every class. You must show that you are engaging with course readings and themes by orally contributing thoughtfully to in-class discussions. Students will also engage in group work with small weekly assignments that are essential to completion of the major research essay assignment.

Students will also be able to participate online for partial credit each week. This can include contributions to Moodle discussion forums or Twitter discussions on the #yorkhist4500 hashtag. If students wish to participate on Twitter, they must register their Twitter handles with the course instructor.

Because this course aims to teach students about digital history, including online research and communication, students are expected to bring internet-connected computing devices to seminar (laptops, tablet computers, smartphones). These devices should be used exclusively for course-relevant purposes.

All course participation, including in-class discussion and online discussion, must be in compliance with the York University Student Code of Conduct (http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf). In order to ensure this, students should try at all times to be respectful toward one another and toward all faculty and staff. Active and respectful student participation is essential to establishing a productive and engaging learning environment for everyone.

Course Schedule

Week One: Introduction to Course

Friday, September 7, 2012

- Listen: Exploring Environmental History, Episodes 22-23
 - http://www.eh-resources.org/podcast/eh-podcast22.mp3
 - http://www.eh-resources.org/podcast/eh-podcast23.mp3

Week Two: Environmental History & Metropolitanism

Friday, September 14, 2012

- Read: Worster, Donald, "Transformations of the Earth: Toward an Agroecological Perspective in History" *The Journal of American History* 76 (4) 1990: 1087-1106. http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=15408918&site=ehost-live
- Read: Steinberg, Ted. Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002) Prologue: Rocks and History, pgs. 3-7. http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2293359
- Read: Hughes, J. Donald. *Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life.* Florence, KY: Routledge, 2002. Ch. 1 Introduction: History and Ecology, pgs. 1-10. http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2296668
- Read: Careless, J.M.S. "Frontierism, Metropolitanism, and Canadian History" *Canadian Historical Review* 35 (1) 1954: 1-21. http://www.metapress.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/content/cq22426548057t67/?p=34c57b152ff84af18d9479b6b4472347&pi=0
- Research Cluster: Organize groups and register Twitter handles

Week Three: Canadians and the Natural Environment

Friday, September 21, 2012

- Read: Forkey, Neil S. Canadians and the Natural Environment to the Twenty-First Century. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012.
- Research Cluster: Research Topic Brainstorm

Week Four: The Nature of Cities

Friday, September 28, 2012

- Read: Steinberg, Ted. Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. Ch. 10 "Death of the Organic City" http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2293359
- Read: Melosi, Martin V. "Humans, Cities, and Nature: How Do Cities Fit in the Material World?" *Journal of Urban History* 36 (1) 2010: 3-21. http://juh.sagepub.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/content/36/1.toc

- Read: Davis, Mike. Dead Cities and Other Tales. New York: New Press, 2002. Chapter 17
 "Dead Cities: A Natural History" http://www.seankheraj.com/Mike%20Davis%20-%20Dead%20Cities%20A%20Natural%20History.pdf
- Research Cluster: Online archives and other resources

Week Five: Library Primary Source Research Session

Friday, October 5, 2012

Week Six: Wilderness, Progress, and Decline

Friday, October 12, 2012

- Read: Nash, Roderick F. Wilderness and the American Mind. Fourth Edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001. Prologue "The Condition of Wilderness"
 http://seankheraj.com/readings/Roderick%20Nash%20-%20The%20Condition%20of%20Wilderness.pdf
- Read: Cronon, William. "The Trouble with Wilderness or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." In *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*, ed. William Cronon, 23-56. New York: W.W. Norton, 1995. http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/Trouble-with-Wilderness Main.html
- Read: Merchant, Carolyn. Reinventing Eden: The Fate of Nature in Western Culture. Florence, KY: Routledge, 2003. Ch. 1 A Garden Planet http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2295120
- Read: Cronon, William. "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative." Journal of American History 26, (1992): 1347-1376.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=9206013097&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster: Discussion of Research Topics

Week Seven: Staples Thesis & The Fur Trade ***Essay Proposal Due***

Friday, October 19, 2012

- Read: Innis, Harold Adams. The Fur Trade in Canada: An Introduction to Canadian Economic History. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999 [1930]. Conclusion "The Importance of Staple Products" http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2237942
- Read: Creighton, Donald. The Commercial Empire of the St. Lawrence, 1750-1850. Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1937. Ch. 1 "The Economy of the North" http://seankheraj.com/readings/Donald%20Creighton%20-%20Economy%20of%20the%20North.pdf
- Read: Colpitts, George. "Accounting for Environmental Degradation in Hudson's Bay
 Company Fur Trade Journals and Account Books" British Journal of Canadian Studies 19 (1)
 2006: 1-32.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=46932557&site=ehost-live
- Read: Zilberstein, Anya. "Nature and Nation: Recent Books in Canadian Environmental History." Journal Of Canadian Studies 42, no. 3 (Fall2008 2008): 193-207.

http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=40127236&site=ehost-live

• Research Cluster: Literature Review Essay Workshop with Writing Tips

Week Eight: Montreal and its Hinterlands

Friday, October 26, 2012

- Read: Coates, Colin M. "The Colonial Landscapes of the Early Town" in *Metropolitan Natures: Environmental Histories of Montreal*. Ed., Stéphane Castonguay and Michèle Dagenais. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011.
 http://books.google.ca/books?id=Zuy3CsD_zkgC&lpg=PP1&ots=pD5e0Fdrxj&dq=metropolitan%20natures&pg=PA19#v=onepage&q&f=false
- Read: Rudin, Ronald. "Montreal, Banks, and the Urban Development of Quebec, 1840-1914" in Shaping the Urban Landscape: Aspects of the Canadian City Building Process. Eds. Gilbert A. Stelter and Alan F.J. Artibise. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1982. http://seankheraj.com/readings/Ronald%20Rudin%20-%20Montreal%20Banks%20and%20the%20Urban%20Development%20of%20Quebec%201840-1914.pdf
- Read: Castonguay, Stéphane, "Agriculture on the Montreal Plain, 1850-1950" in Metropolitan Natures: Environmental Histories of Montreal. Ed., Stéphane Castonguay and Michèle Dagenais. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011.
 http://seankheraj.com/readings/Stephane%20Castonguay%20-%20Agriculture%20on%20the%20Montreal%20Plain%201850-1950.pdf
- Research Cluster: Finding Secondary Sources and Using Bibliography Software

Week Nine: Cities and the Agricultural Landscape of Ontario

Friday, November 9, 2012

- Read: Wood, J.D. Making Ontario: Agricultural Colonization and Landscape Re-Creation Before the Railway. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000. Ch. 1 "Progress' and the Confrontation with Nature"; Ch. 2 "Changing the Face of the Earth"; Ch. 7 "The Urban Role in an Agricultural Economy" http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2233761
- Read: Gouglas, Sean W. "A Currant Affair: E.D. Smith and Agricultural Change in Nineteenth-Century Saltfleet Township, Ontario" Agricultural History 75 (4) 2001: 438-466. http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=5633210&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster: Literature Review Outlines and Drafts

Week Ten: Timber, Coal, and Halifax ***Literature Review Essay Due***

Friday, November 16, 2012

Read: McCann, L.D. "Staples and the New Industrialism in the Growth of Post-Confederation Halifax" *Acadiensis* 8 (2) 1979: 47-79.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45794678&site=ehost-live

- Read: Parenteau, Bill. "The Woods Transformed: The Emergence of the Pulp and Paper Industry in New Brunswick, 1918-1931" *Acadiensis* 22 (1) 1992: 5-43.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45925369&site=ehost-live
- Read: McCann, L. D. "Fragmented Integration: The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company and the Anatomy of an Urban-Industrial Landscape, c. 1912." *Urban History Review / Revue D'histoire Urbaine* 22, no. 2 (June 1994): 139-158.

 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45022941&site=ehost-live

Week Eleven: Agriculture and the Prairie Cities

Friday, November 23, 2012

- Read: Artibise, Alan F.J. "The Urban West: The Evolution of Prairie Towns and Cities to 1930" Prairie Forum 4 (2) 1979: 237-262.
 http://seankheraj.com/readings/Alan%20FJ%20Artibise%20-%20The%20Urban%20West%20The%20Evolution%20of%20Prairie%20Towns%20and%20Cities%20to%201930.pdf
- Read: Evans, Clinton. The War on Weeds in the Prairie West: An Environmental History. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2002. Ch. 4 "Dominion of the West, 1867-1905" http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2234310
- Read: Matthew Evenden, "Precarious Foundations: Irrigation, Environment, and Social Change in the Canadian Pacific Railway's Eastern Section, 1900-1930" *Journal of Historical Geography* 32 (2006): 74-95
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=19464023&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster: Making a Research Plan

Week Twelve: Salmon, Timber, and Vancouver

Friday, November 30, 2012

- Read: McDonald, Robert A.J. "Victoria, Vancouver, and the Economic Development of British Columbia, 1886-1914" in *Town and City: Aspects of Western Canadian Urban Development* ed. Alan F.J. Artibise. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1981. http://seankheraj.com/readings/Robert%20AJ%20McDonald%20-%20Victoria%20Vancouver%20and%20the%20Economic%20Development%20of%20British%20Columbia%201886-1914.pdf
- Read: Hak, Gordon. Turning Trees into Dollars: The British Columbia Coastal Lumber Industry, 1858-1913. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Ch. 1 "Markets" http://seankheraj.com/readings/Gordon%20Hak%20-%20Markets.pdf
- Read: Newell, Dianne. "Dispersal and Concentration: The Slowly Changing Spatial Pattern
 of the British Columbia Salmon Canning Industry" *Journal of Historical Geography* 14 (1) 1988:
 22-36
 - http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45953387&site=ehost-live

Week Thirteen: The Wet Prairie

Friday, January 11, 2013

- Read: Stunden Bower, Shannon. Wet Prairie: People, Land, and Water in Agricultural Manitoba. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011.
- Listen: *Nature's Past: Canadian Environmental History Podcast*, Episode 24, "Draining the Wet Prairie" http://niche-canada.org/node/10128
- Research Cluster:

Week Fourteen: Conservation and Local Conflict

Friday, January 18, 2013

- Read: Sandlos, John. "Federal Spaces, Local Conflicts: National Parks and the Exclusionary Politics of the Conservation Movement in Ontario, 1900-1935" *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 16 (1) 2005: 293-318.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=46884616&site=ehost-live
- Read: Loo, Tina. "Of Moose and Men: Hunting for Masculinities in British Columbia, 1880-1939" Western Historical Quarterly 32 (3) 2001: 297-319.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=5152339&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster:

Week Fifteen: Wildlife and Western Canada

Friday, January 25, 2013

- Read: Colpitts, George. Game in the Garden: A Human History of Wildlife in Western Canada to 1940. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002. http://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/2232169
- Research Cluster:

Week Sixteen: The National Parks Movement

Friday, February 1, 2013

- Read: Armstrong, Christopher, Matthew Evenden, and H.V. Nelles. *The River Returns: An Environmental History of the Bow* Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009. Ch. 10 "Building Banff"
 - http://seankheraj.com/readings/Christopher%20Armstrong%20et%20al%20-%20Building%20Banff.pdf
- Read: Binnema, Theodore (Ted) and Melanie Niemi, "Let the line be drawn now': Wilderness, Conservation, and the Exclusion of Aboriginal People from Banff National Park

- in Canada" *Environmental History* 11 (4) 2006: 724-750. http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=22994394&site=ehost-live
- Read: Reichwein, PearlAnn. "Hands off our national parks": The Alpine Club of Canada and Hydro-Development Controversies in the Canadian Rockies, 1922-1930." *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 6, (January 1995): 129-155. http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45776645&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster:

Week Seventeen: City Park Landscapes

Friday, February 8, 2013

- Read: Young, Terrence. Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-1930 Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004. Ch. 1 "The American Park Movement"
 http://seankheraj.com/readings/Terence%20Young%20-%20The%20American%20Parks%20Movement.pdf
- Read: Murray, A. L. "Frederick Law Olsted and the Design of Mount Royal Park, Montreal." Journal Of The Society Of Architectural Historians 26, no. 3 (September 1967): 163-171. http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45991169&site=ehost-live
- Read: Kheraj, Sean. "Improving Nature: Remaking Stanley Park's Forest, 1888-1931" BC Studies 158 (2008): 63-90.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=34763797&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster:

Week Eighteen: Urban Pollution

Friday, February 15, 2013

- Read: Melosi, Martin. Effluent America: Cities, Industry, Energy, and the Environment. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. Ch. 2 "Environmental Crisis in the City: The Relationship Between Industrialization and Pollution"

 http://seankheraj.com/readings/Martin%20Melosi%20-%20Environmental%20Crisis%20in%20the%20City%20The%20Relationship%20between%20Industrialization%20and%20Pollution.pdf
- Read: Keeling, Arn. "Sink or Swim: Water Pollution and Environmental Politics in Vancouver, 1889-1975" BC Studies 142/143 (2004): 69-101.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=16284777&site=ehost-live
- Read: Parr, Joy. "Smells Like? Sources of Uncertainty in the History of the Great Lakes Environment" *Environmental History* 11 (2) 2006: 269-299. http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=21063660&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster:

Week Nineteen: Becoming Suburban

Friday, March 1, 2013

- Read: Harris, Richard. Creeping Conformity: How Canada Became Suburban, 1900-1960. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004.
- Research Cluster:

Week Twenty: Energy Metropolises and Frontiers

Friday, March 8, 2013

- Read: Melosi, Martin. "Energy and Environment in the United States: The Era of Fossil Fuels" Environmental Review 11 (3) 1987: 167-188.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=8273339&site=ehost-live
- Read: Sabin, Paul. "Voices from the Hydrocarbon Frontier: Canada's Mackenzie Valley
 Pipeline Inquiry, 1974-1977" Environmental History Review 19 (1) 1995: 17-48.
 http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=8256269&site=ehost-live
- Read: Loo, Tina. "People in the Way: Modernity, Environment, and Society on the Arrow Lakes" BC Studies 142/143 (2004): 161-196.
 http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=16284786&site=ehost-live
- Research Cluster:

Week Twenty-One: Research Presentations

Friday, March 15, 2013

Week Twenty-Two: Research Presentations

Friday, March 22, 2013

Week Twenty-Three: Research Essays ***Research Essays Due***

Friday, April 5, 2012