窗体顶端

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**Energy and Environment in Global History, 1500-present**

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本科生    本科生    硕士生    博士生

Undergraduate    Undergraduate    Master    Doctoral student

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English

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Basic knowledge of history

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METHOD OF INSTRUCTION  
Lectures and discussions

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Attendance and participation 20%  
assignment and mini-papers 80%

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2 credits

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Dr. Brian Black is Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Penn State Altoona, where he currently serves as Head of Arts and Humanities.  Recognized as a global expert on petroleum history, his research emphasis is on the landscape and environmental history of North America, particularly in relation to the application and use of energy and technology. He is the author of several books, including the award-winning Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom (Johns Hopkins, 2003) andCrude Reality: Petroleum in World History (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014).  He has contributed essays to more than twenty books and is the editor of a number of others, including Nature’s Entrepot: Philadelphia's Urban Sphere and its Environmental Thresholds (University of Pittsburgh, 2012) and Climate Change, a four-volume encyclopedia (ABC-Clio, 2012).  He also served as co-editor of the special issue of the Journal of American History on “Oil in American Life,” which was inspired by the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill and he is a former editor of Pennsylvania History.

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The human relationship with the natural environment—the world of plants, animals, and microbes, of air, water, and land—is an important historical subject.  This course provides a broad, thematic description and analysis of major global trends and shifts in this relationship since 1500, with an emphasis on contemporary issues and problem solving.  Through the course work and reading, students will acquire the historical context necessary to construct a thoughtful appreciation of the environmental dilemmas of our time.  The course, therefore, is a historical one with direct ties to contemporary life.  
The basic organization for this course grows from ecology.  Ecology has contributed a great deal to our historical understanding in terms of specific examples or case studies; however, in recent years it has also begun to reconstruct the overall structure of how we view the history of the human species This course seeks to exploit this new paradigm by following a topical organization that is structured around human modes of interaction with the environment. Our coverage will follow a general chronology but cannot seek to be exhaustive.  
 In particular, this survey of global history emphasizes a continuous portion of human’s relationship with nature:  the use and management of energy.  The 21st century has brought humans numerous challenges, but none may be as integral to the species as energy supply management.  Engineering the wisest energy future, however, requires historical knowledge and context.  This course is organized to provide students with an awareness and comprehension of patterns and change within our use of energy.  To this end, energy will be a sub-topic in each of the units described below.  
 In Week 1 the course concentrates on the natural history of Earth while emphasizing global patterns of general land-use through 1500.  In Week 2 the course traces human patterns of life through the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on global expansion and interaction. Week 3, then, looks at a selection of the topics that define human life in the twentieth century, particularly emphasizing the growing separation between developed and less-developed nations.  Finally, Week 4 studies modes of global cooperation and interaction while providing students an opportunity to investigate one issue related to energy in depth.

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Chapter 1: Ecosystems and the Great Transitions  
1:1Cultural Constructs: Great Transitions up to 1500  
1:2 Rivers, Dirt, and Air:  The Foundations of History  
1:3 Early Trade and Exchange  
Questions andassignment:  
1) What is Environmental History?  
2) What is the correlation between human development and climate/region?  
3) How do culture’s take form?  
  
Chapter 2: Origins of Modern World, 1500-1850  
2:1Rise of the West:  Sea Commons  
2:2 Mercantilism and Colonization  
2: 3 From Empires, States and the New World to the Industrial Revolution  
Questions andassignment:  
1) How do early trade corridors take shape?  
2) What defines markets?  
3) What role is played by new technology?  
  
Chapter 3:Energy and Expansion, 1850-present  
3:1New Dynamics and the Industrial World  
3:2World War and Increasing Conflict  
3:3Decolonization and Resource Curse  
Questions andassignment:  
1) How does warfare change during this era?  
2) What effect do energy supplies have in global patterns of development?  
3) What is the connection between energy supplies and national security?  
  
Chapter 4: Going Global: Forming the Ecological Commons  
4:1 Globalization, Resource Wars and Coming Crisis  
4:2  Sustainability and Climate Change  
4:3  A Global Green Wave: The Concept of Sustainable Development  
Questions andassignment:  
1) What new corridors for conflict and cooperation emerge in this era?  
2) How do new scientific ideas alter global history in this era?  
3) Can sustainability influence ideas of energy in the future?  
  
Chapter 5: Energy Futures  
5:1 Defining a Common Global Future  
Questions andassignment:  
1) What are corridors of cooperation between nations today?  
2) Are there still barriers or difficulties that prohibit nations from working together?

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Texts  
Achebe, Chinua, Things Fall Apart  
Black, Brian, Crude Reality  
Marks, Robert, Origins of the Modern World (2nded)  
Ponting, Green History of the World (2nded)

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