

Environmental History Survey

HIST 1240-001

Fall 2025

Class Location: Hardin Hall 100

Meeting Time: MWF 12:20-1:10PM

Modality: This class meets in-person, in Hardin Hall 100, for every session.

Time to Wait: If for some reason I am not in the classroom at the designated start time, students must wait until 12:30PM until they are permitted to leave the room.

Dr. Burd

Office Number: Hardin Hall 014

Student Hours Policy: I am available to meet in the afternoons on Monday & Wednesday. If you would like to meet, please email me to schedule a time.

Office Phone Number: My office does not have a phone but if for some reason you need to reach me via phone, call the History Department: (864)656-3153.

Email: cburd@clermson.edu

Email Response Policy: I will try to answer emails as quickly as possible. That being said, I cannot get to every message right away. Therefore, I will commit to responding to any email within 24 hours on weekdays.

Course Description: Introduction to environmental history with emphasis on changing attitudes toward the environment and the interaction between science and public policy.

Course Overview: This course introduces students to the field of environmental history. A telling of history through the lens of the environment offers insights into the actions and beliefs of its inhabitants. Over the course of the semester students will uncover how past residents valued, used, and transformed different aspects of the natural world. We will also examine how social and cultural histories manifest across the globe. In addition to a history of how inhabitants have shaped the environment over time, this course explores the ways that the natural world can shape cultural ideas. Overall, the course focuses on the environment as a lens to understand key moments and movements in global history. In doing so, students will leave the classroom with a new perspective to understand modern environmental, and land-use debates.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisite courses for this HIST 1240-001.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the intellectual premise of environmental history.
- Grapple with the ways in which past inhabitants have shaped Global Environments environment over time.
- Explore how ideas of nature have changed throughout history.
- Better understand the environmental legacies of the past in the modern world.

Required Texts: You do not need to purchase any books for this class. All readings will be supplied by the instructor and available on the Canvas. **You will need to bring blue books to midterm and final exams.**

Assignments

Exams (2 exams = 50%): There will be two exams in this course. The Midterm and Final Exam (appropriately labeled in the course schedule) will be worth 100 points each. The midterm will only cover course content that we have discussed up until that point. The final exam, similarly, will deal with lectures and readings discussed after the midterm. The exams will be a combination of short writing prompts and an essay. The exams will cover materials discussed in lecture as well as the regular readings. Blue books will be required for these exams. I will provide more information as the exam dates approach.

Quizzes (4 = 50%): Throughout the semester, you will take four quizzes. Individually, these are worth less than your exams and are meant to help you better understand the material. These are clearly marked in the syllabus and cover materials discussed prior to that quiz.

Grading

This course follows the Clemson University Grading scale:

A-Excellent indicates work of a very high character, the highest grade given.

B-Good indicates work that is definitely above average, though not of the highest quality.

C-Fair indicates work of average or medium character.

D-Pass indicates work below average and unsatisfactory, the lowest passing grade.

F-Failed indicates that the student knows so little of the subject that it must be repeated in order that credit can be received.

I-Incomplete indicates that a relatively small part of the semester's work remains undone. Grade I is not given a student who made a grade F on his/her daily work. The incomplete grade is calculated as an F in the student's grade-point average until the work is made up and a final grade is assigned. Instructors and students will resolve the Incomplete grade as soon as possible, but not to exceed thirty days from the first day of classes in the next scheduled session (excluding summer sessions and regardless of the student's enrollment status). Students will contact instructors in a timely manner so that instructors can provide a reasonable opportunity to complete remaining work. Normally, only one extension for each I may be granted, and this under unusual circumstances. The extension must be submitted by the instructor of the course and will indicate the time limit. (Students under this policy are prohibited from removing the I by repeating the course.) A letter grade of I converts to F unless the incomplete is removed within the time specified.

W-Withdraw indicates that the student withdrew from the course or was withdrawn by the instructor after the first two weeks of classwork and prior to the last five weeks of classes, not including the examination period. Proportionate time periods apply during summer and other shortened sessions. For financial aid purposes, enrollment is defined and satisfactory academic progress levels are established as of midnight on the last day to drop without a W grade. Withdrawal can negatively impact financial aid eligibility if a student does not complete a sufficient number of hours. Details are available at www.clemson.edu/finaid.

P-Pass or *NP*-No Pass indicate a student has either passed or not passed a course approved to be taken as Pass/No Pass only. Students are not permitted to optionally take a letter-graded course as Pass/No Pass.

I will work as quickly as possible to return grade materials to you. You can expect to have graded materials within 10 days of completion.

Discussion Etiquette

This classroom is committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought, opinion, and values. We encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, the instructor will intervene. Learners as well as faculty should be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. The following are good guidelines to follow:

- Never transmit, promote, or distribute content that is known to be illegal.
- Never share harassing, threatening, or embarrassing thoughts or comments. If you disagree with someone, respond to the subject, not the person. Conflicts of ideas are encouraged, while conflicts of feelings are discouraged.
- Never share comments that are harmful, abusive; racially or culturally insensitive, or religiously offensive, vulgar; sexually explicit, or otherwise potentially offensive.

Absence Policy & Late Work

Due dates for exams and primary source activities are clearly marked on the syllabus and in Canvas which means there are few reasonable excuses for missing them. That being said, I want you to succeed in this course. If, for whatever reason, you miss an assignment or exam please reach out to me within 24 hours with proper documentation. We will establish time for you to complete the missed activity or exam.

Academic Honesty and AI

As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. Plagiarism, which includes the intentional or unintentional copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing the work to one's own efforts. Graded works generated by artificial intelligence or ghostwritten (either paid or free) are expressly forbidden. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any work in this course, even with proper documentation and citation. I am interested in your ideas, interpretations, and voice. Therefore the use of AI tools directly conflicts with the goals of the course.

All infractions of academic dishonesty by undergraduates will be reported to Undergraduate Learning for resolution through that office.

Accessibility

Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require

accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities. Students who experience a barrier to full access to this class should let the instructor know and are encouraged to request accommodations through SAS (Student Accessibility Services) as soon as possible.

To request accommodations through SAS, please see this link:

www.clemson.edu/academics/student-accessibility-services/how-to-register/requesting-accommodations.

You can also reach out to SAS with questions by calling 864-656-6848, email CUSAS@clemson.edu or visiting SAS at the ASC Suite 239. Contact the office for the most updated drop-in schedule if you would prefer not to schedule an appointment.

The Clemson University Title IX Statement Regarding Non-Discrimination

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy or related conditions (including pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, recovery from the foregoing, or medical conditions related to the foregoing), national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sex discrimination (including sex-based harassment and sexual violence) as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This Title IX policy is located on the Access Compliance and Education website. Ms. Alesia Smith is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator, and the Assistant Vice President of Equity Compliance. Her office is located at 223 Brackett Hall, 864-656-3181 and her email address is isalesias@clemson.edu. Remember, email is not a fully secured method of communication and should not be used to discuss Title IX issues.

Clemson University aspires to create a diverse community that welcomes people of different races, cultures, ages, genders, sexual orientation, religions, socioeconomic levels, political perspectives, abilities, opinions, values and experiences.

Emergency Preparation

Emergency procedures have been posted in all buildings and on all elevators. All students and employees should be familiar with guidelines from Clemson University Public Safety. Clemson University is committed to providing a safe campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. As members of the community, we encourage you to take the following actions to be better prepared in case of an emergency:

1. Familiarize yourself with all possible exits, safer locations, and other key information on the emergency evacuation maps in this building, and those that you visit regularly.
2. Make a plan for how you would Run, Hide, and Fight in case of an active threat in this building, and those that you visit regularly. For example:
 - a. Run – what are all the possible exits in this building, and the routes to them?
 - b. Hide – what are the potential hiding locations in this room and building that are out of sight of doors and windows, how do you lock the door(s), how would you barricade the door(s) and windows, where do you turn off the lights?
 - c. Fight – What tools are available in this room and building, should you have to fight?
3. Ensure you are signed up for emergency alerts. Alerts are only sent when there is a potential threat to safety, a major disruption to campus services, and once-monthly tests.

4. Download the Rave Guardian app to your phone.
(<https://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/cupd/rave-guardian/>)
5. Learn what you can do to prepare yourself for the hazards that affect our locations.
(<http://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/EmergencyManagement/>)

Course Outline

August 20 – Introduction and Expectations

August 22 – What is Environmental History?

August 25 – Planetary Evolution

August 27 – Human Evolution & the Changing Planet

August 29 – Transitions from Foraging into Cultivation and Agriculture

September 1 – NO CLASS

September 3 – Early Agriculture

September 5 – Early Agriculture II

September 8 – The Early City

September 10 – The Early City II

September 12 – QUIZ

September 15 – Mining and Ancient Society

September 17 – Religion, Philosophy, and Nature

September 19 – Religion, Philosophy, and Nature II

September 22 – NO CLASS

September 24 – The Roman Empire and the Environment

September 26 – QUIZ

September 29 – Middle Ages

October 1 – Middle Ages II

October 3 – The Columbian Exchange

October 6 – Colonial Environments

October 8 – Colonial Environments II

October 10 – MIDTERM EXAM

October 13 – NO CLASS

October 15 – Early Industrialization

October 17 – Early Industrialization II

October 20 – Urban Environments

October 22 – Commodities and Environments

October 24 – Empire & Science

October 27 – New Ideas about Nature

October 29 – QUIZ

October 31 – Energy, Fuel, and Nature

November 3 – NO CLASS

November 5 – The Rise of Conservation

November 7 – The Industrial Age

November 10 – Water and the Industrial Age

November 12 – Air and the Industrial Age

November 14 – The Biosphere and the Industrial Age

November 17 – QUIZ

November 19 – War and Nature

November 21 – The Nuclear Age

November 24 – NO CLASS

November 26 – NO CLASS

November 28 – NO CLASS

December 1 – Globalization & Nature I

December 3 – Globalization & Nature II

December 5 – The World Environments, Today

December 8 – FINAL EXAM, 8:00-10:30AM