2017

Syllabus: Conservation of Nature and Culture

David Glassberg

*University of Massachusetts Amherst, glassberg@history.umass.edu*

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History 391N/691N: Conservation of Nature and Culture

Fall 2017
Herter 225
M/W/F 10:10-11:00

D. Glassberg
glassberg@history.umass.edu
office hours M/W 11:00-12:00 & by appt.

This course explores the history of various efforts to conserve nature and culture. Students will learn about the history of environmental conservation, but also to think broadly about what the idea of conservation means in archaeology, historic preservation, and the arts, especially in a time of globalization and climate change. Its fundamental premise is that nature and culture are interconnected; nature cannot truly be conserved without also conserving the culture that has shaped it, and culture cannot truly be conserved without also conserving the natural world on which it rests.

The students in this course come from a wide variety of majors. So it is especially important for you to attend every class, do the readings, and contribute actively to class discussions from your unique point-of-view. Please hand papers in on time so that you can get feedback on your work before the next assignment is due. Your final grade will be based on:

1) class participation (20%);
2) two short (1-2 pg.) “research activity” presentations (25%);
3) two short (3-4 pg.) papers based on assigned readings (30%);
4) one 10-15 pg. final research paper and oral presentation (25%).

Here is the list of books that appear on the UMass on-line book order website. These books will also be on Reserve in the Library, and available for purchase at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street, Amherst

A. Leopold, A Sand County Almanac (with additional essays)
B. Minter & S. Pyne, eds. After Preservation: Saving Nature in the Age of Humans

Additional readings are posted on the course Moodle site. We will also make extensive use of the journal Environmental History (on line through the Library) and the Library of Congress Website, The Evolution of the Conservation Movement 1850-1920. (http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/conshome.html).
Schedule of Topics and Readings (readings marked * recommended for all; readings marked ** required for graduate students and recommended for undergraduate students):

PART ONE: CONSERVATION HISTORY

Week 1: Introduction, What is Conservation?

9/6 Introduction: What is Conservation?

G. Morris, “Woodsman Spare That Tree” (1837)
B. Ramm, “A Controversial Restoration that Wipes Away the Past,” NY Times, September 1, 2017

9/8 Your Environmental Autobiography

Week 2: The Origins of Conservation (1)

9/11 Conservation and Imperialism


9/13 Conservation and Romanticism

H.D. Thoreau, “Walking” (1862), pp, 185-97, LC Conservation Movement Website

9/15 Research Activity 1: Landscape Painting

A. Miller, “The Fate of Wilderness in American Landscape Art,” in American Wilderness, pp. 91-112.
Week 3: Origins of Conservation (2)

9/18 Conservation and the Commons


9/20 Research Skills Workshop in Library with Madeleine Charney

9/22 Conservation and Science

G. Marsh, “Preface,” and “The Destructiveness of Man” in *Man & Nature, or Physical Geography as Modified By Human Action* [1864], pp. iii-vi, 35-44
LC Conservation Movement Website
*G. Marsh, “Address delivered before the Agricultural Society of Rutland County, VT, Sept. 30, 1847,” LC Conservation Movement Website

Week 4: Conservation and the National Parks

9/25 Origins: Yosemite

F.L. Olmsted, “Preliminary Report on the Yosemite and Big Tree Groves” (1865)
LC Conservation Movement Website.
*Yosemite Travellers Accounts from the Huntington Library (Cochrane, Mayer, Raymond Excursion, Bridges, To Yosemite By Auto)

9/27: Managing the Wild

John Muir, “A Windstorm in the Forest,” in *The Mountains of California* [1894], LC Conservation Movement website

9/29 Discuss “The Trouble with Wilderness” (paper #1 due)

W. Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness, or Getting Back to the Wrong

**Week 5: Conservation and Subsistence**

**10/2 Working Class Wilderness**


**10/4 Conservation and Native Americans**


**10/6: Research Activity 2: Photography and Native Americans**


**Week 6: Conservation and Politics**

**10/9 No class: Columbus Day**

**Tuesday 10/10 Conservation and Scientific Management**

J. Muir, “Let Everyone Help Save the Hetch Hetchy Valley” (1909), LC Conservation Movement Website.


**“Roosevelt, Friend of the Birds,” film, LC Conservation Movement Website**


*K. Burns, National Parks film, Episode 2 (“The Last Refuge”), segments on “The Greatest Good,” “The Most Vital Man,” “Leave it As it Is,” “Distance in His Eyes,” and “Devil & His Relations.”

**10/11 Conservation, Immigration, and Race**


W. Hornaday, Our Vanishing Wildlife (1913), pp. 100-104. LC Conservation Movement Website


*A. Stern, “California’s Eugenic Landscapes,” in Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America (2005), pp. 115-49;


**10/13: Discuss “Conservation’s Winners and Losers” (paper #2 due)**

**Week 7: Conservation and the New Deal**

**10/16 Conserving Land and People**

S. Phillips, “Poor People Make Poor Land,” in This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal (2007), pp. 75-107.


* P. Lorenz, The Plow that Broke the Plains (1936) and The River (1937)

**“Voices from the Dust Bowl,” American Memory Collection, Library of Congress;**
*B. Filene, “Searching for Folk Music's Institutional Niche,” in Romancing the 

10/18  Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic

A. Leopold, “Thinking Like a Mountain,” and “The Land Ethic,” in A Sand County 
Almanac and other Essays, pp. 137-41, 237-64.
**A. Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, pp. 1-95.
**P. Sutter, “Putting Wilderness in Context: The Interwar Origins of the Modern 

10/20:  No class: DG out of town

Week 8: Conservation and Environmental Politics

10/23  From Conservation to Environment

S. Hays, “From Conservation to Environment,” in Beauty, Health, & 
Permanence: Environmental Politics in the United States, 1955-85, 
U.S. Public Law 93-205, “The Endangered Species Act,” approved December 28, 
1973 (excerpts).
187-203;

10/25  Conservation Politics

R. White, “Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living? Work and 
Nature,” in W. Cronon, ed. Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human 
61.
*C. Stone, “Should Trees Have Standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural 

10/27  Research Activity 3: The Energy Crisis of the 1970s

span.org/video/?153917-1/president-carter-address)
Meg Jacobs, “Introduction: An Energy Pearl Harbor,” and “Hot Summer Mad,” in 
Panic at the Pump: The Energy Crisis and the Transformation of American 
PART TWO: CONSERVATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

Week 9: Conservation and Cultural Resources

10/30  Conserving Cultural Landscapes

*K. Basso, Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape & Language Among the Western Apache

11/1  Culture and Agriculture


11/3  Discuss Final Paper Prospectus (Due)

Week 10: Conservation and Globalization

11/6  Conservation and International Development


11/8 What is World Heritage?

UNESCO. “Managing Natural World Heritage” (2012), pp. 20-34.
*UNESCO, “Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage” (2014)
*A. Stille, “The Sphinx—Virtual and Real” in *The Future of the Past* pp. 4-39

11/10 Research Activity 4: World Heritage sites

Week 11: Conservation and Climate Change (1)

11/13 Rethinking Nature in the Anthropocene


*J. Baron, “Adaptation Strategies for Public Land Managers to Climate Change” in US Forest Service Climate Change Course (2009)


11/15 Facing Extinction

E. Kolbert, “The Sixth Extinction?” *The New Yorker* 85 (May 25, 2009): 53-

11/17 Climate Justice: Preparing for Disaster

FEMA, *EHP Reflections on Katrina After 10 Years* (2015)
Week 12: Conservation and Climate Change (2)

11/27 Climate and Cultural Heritage


11/29 Psychology of Risk and Denial


12/1 Hope in the Dark


Weeks 13: Oral Presentations

12/4 Oral Presentations Based on Final Papers

12/6 Oral Presentations Based on Final Papers

12/8 Oral Presentations Based on Final Papers

Week 14: Wrapping Up

12/11 Course Overview

Friday 12/15 Final Papers Due 3:30-5:00 PM in Herter 637