

## **Environmental History and the American West**

Examiner: Dan Flores  
(Fall 2010)

### **Environmental History**

#### **I. Global Antecedents To American Environmental History**

- Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1972)
- Max Oelschloeger, *The Idea of Wilderness: From Prehistory to the Age of Ecology* (1991)
- Clarence Glacken, *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture In Western Thought From Ancient Times to the End of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* (1967)
- Clive Ponting, *A Green History of the World: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations* (1991).

#### **II. The Longue Duree of Native America**

- Shepard Krech, *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History* (1999)
- David Rich Lewis, *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: American Indians, Environment, and Agrarian Change* (1994)
- Andrew Isenberg, *The Destruction of the Bison: An Environmental History 1750-1920* (2000)
- David Stuart *Anasazi America* (2000)
- Tim Flannery, *The Eternal Frontier: An Ecological History of North America and its Peoples* (2001)
- Paul Martin, *Twilight of the Mammoths: Ice Age Extinctions and the Rewilding of America* (2005)
- Charles Mann, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* (2005)
- Noble David Cook, *Born To Die: Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650* (1998)
- Richard White, *Roots of Dependency: Subsistence, Environment, and Social Change among the Choctaws, Pawnees, and Navajos* (1983)

#### **III. Early European America and the Romantic Age**

- Thomas Flannery, *Nature and the English Diaspora: Environmental History in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand* (1999)\*
- Thomas Slaughter, *The Natures of John and William Bartram*, (1996)
- Mark Stoll, *Protestantism, Capitalism, and Nature in America* (1997)
- Barbara Novak, *Nature and Culture: American Landscape Painting, (1825-1875)*

#### **IV. Environmental History and the American West**

- Paul Cutright, *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists* (1969)

- Donald Worster, *Under Western Skies: Nature and History in the American West* (1992)
- Bruce Hevly and John Findlay, eds. *The Atomic West* (1998)
- Dan Flores, *The Natural West: Environmental History in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains* (2001)
- William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (1991)
- Hal Rothman, *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century American West* (1998)
- Donald McMillan, *Smoke Wars: Anaconda Copper, Montana Air Pollution and the Courts, 1890-1920*, (2000)

#### **V. Bioregional Environmental Histories**

- William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (1983)
- Gordon Whitney, *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain: A History of Environmental Change in Temperate North America, 1500 to Present* (1994)\*
- William DeBuys, *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range* (1985)

#### **VI. Conservation Origins: Progressivism and the New Deal**

- Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s* (1980)
- Louis Warren, *The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America* (1998)
- Samuel Hays, *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement, 1890-1920* (1969)
- Robert Righter, *The Battle over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism* (2005)
- Neal Maher, *Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement*, (2008).

#### **VII. Animals and Water**

- Jon Coleman, *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America* (2004).
- Paul Shepard, *The Others: How Animals Made Us Human* (1996)\*
- Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water* (1986)
- Mark Harvey, *A Symbol of Wilderness: Echo Park and the American Conservation Movement* (1994).
- Richard White, *The Organic Machine* (1995).

#### **VIII. Preserving Parks and Conserving Forests**

- Alfred Runte: *National Parks: The American Experience* (1979) I read the first edition but will try to obtain a later edition.
- Paul Schullery and Lee Whittlesey, *Myth and History in the Creation of Yellowstone National Park* (2003)
- Stephen Pyne, *How The Canyon Became Grand: A Short History* (1998)

- Paul Schullery, *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness* (1997)
- Peter Nabokov and Lawrence Loendorf, *Restoring a Presence: American Indians and Yellowstone National Park* (2004)
- Peter Hassrick, *Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park* (2002)
- Richard Sellers, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*, (1997)
- Karl Jacoby, *Crimes Against Nature*, (2001)

#### **IX. Energy, Cities, Politics Since WWII**

- Martin Melosi, *Coping with Abundance: Energy and Environment in Industrial America* (1985)\*
- Linda Nash, *Inescapable Ecologies: A History of Environmental Disease and Knowledge* (2006)
- Hal Rothman, *The Greening of a Nation? Environmentalism in the United States Since 1945* (1998)
- Samuel Hays, *A History of Environmental Politics Since 1945* (2000)
- Christopher Sellers, *Hazards from the Job: From Industrial Disease To Environmental Health Science* (1997).
- Andrea Peacock, *Libby, Montana: Asbestos and the Deadly Silence of an American Corporation* (2003)

#### **X. Ecology and Environmentalism**

- Daniel Botkin, *Discordant Harmonies: A New Ecology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (1990)
- Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, (1962).
- Mark Winston, *Nature Wars*, (1997).
- Donald Worster, *Nature's Economy: The Roots of Ecology*, (1976).
- Andrew Kirk, *Counterculture Green: The Whole Earth Catalog and American Environmentalism* (2007).

#### **XI. Biography and Autobiography**

- Frederick Turner, *Rediscovering America: John Muir in his Time and Ours* (1985)\*
- Char Miller, *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*, (2002)
- Donald Worster, *River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*, (2001).

#### **XII. Topical Treatments**

- Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition 2002) (I read 3<sup>rd</sup> edition)
- Edward Wilson, *Consilience* (1999)
- Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden*, (1995)
- Stephen Pyne, *Year of the Fires! The Story of the Great Fires of 1910* (2001)

- Elizabeth Kolbert, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* (2006)
- Stephen Pinker, *Blank Slate, The Modern Denial of Human Nature*, (2002)

### **XIII. History of Environmental Philosophy**

- J. Baird Callicott, *Earth's Insights: A Multicultural Survey of Ecological Ethics from the Mediterranean Basin to the Australian Outback* (1994)\*
- William Cronon, ed., *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing Nature* (1995)
- Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (1949)

### **XIV. American Nature Writing**

- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (1854)
- Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness* (1968)
- Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (1990)
- Richard Etulain, *Re-imagining the Modern American West: A Century of Fiction, History and Art* (1996)

### **XV. Disease and the Environmental History of the Body**

- Elizabeth Fenn, *Pox Americana* (2001)
- Alfred Crosby, "Virgin Soil Epidemics as a Factor in the Aboriginal Depopulation in America." *William and Marv Quarterly* 33.2 (1970): 289-99.
- David S. Jones, "Virgin Soils Revisited." *William & Mary Quarterly* 60.4 (2003): 703-42.
- Christopher Sellers. "Thoreau's Body: Towards an Embodied Environmental History," *Environmental History* 4 (1999), 486-514.
- Conevery Bolton Valencius, *The Health of the Country: How American Settlers Understood Themselves and their Land* (2002)
- David S. Jones. *Rationalizing Epidemics: Meanings and Uses of American Indian Mortality Since 1600* (2004)
- Billy Mac Jones. *Health-Seekers in the Southwest, 1817-1900* (1967).
- Gregg Mitman. "In Search of Health: Landscape and Disease in American Environmental History," *Environmental History* 10 (April 2005), 184-210.
- Gregg Mitman, *Breathing Space: How Allergies Shape our Lives and our Landscape*, (2008).
- Nancy Langston, *Toxic Bodies: Hormone Disruptors and the Legacy of DES* (Forthcoming)

## History of the American West

### I. Interpretive Overviews

- Patricia Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: the Unbroken Past of the American West* (1987)
- Richard White, *'It's your Misfortune and None of My Own': A New History of the American West* (1996)
- Walter Prescott Webb, *The Great Plains: A Study in Institutions and Environment* (1931)

### II. The American Indian West

- Andrew Isenberg, *The Destruction of the Bison: An Environmental History 1750-1920* (2000)
- David Stuart *Anasazi America* (2000)
- Charles Mann, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* (2005)
- Noble David Cook, *Born To Die: Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650* (1998)
- Calvin Martin, *The Indian and the Problem of History* (1987)
- Richard White, *Roots of Dependency: Subsistence, Environment, and Social Change among the Choctaws, Pawnees, and Navajos* (1983)

### III. Exploration and Imperialism

- Stephen Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage* (1997)
- James Sandos, *Converting California: Indians and Franciscans in the Missions* (2004)

### IV. First Extractive Economy: The Fur Trade

- Bernard DeVoto, *Across the Wide Missouri* (1947)
- David Wishart, *The Fur Trade of the American West, 1807-1840*, (1979)
- Sylvia Van Kirk "The Role of Native Women in the Fur Trade Society of Western Canada, 1670-1830," *Frontiers* 7, No. 3 (1984), 9-13.
- Thomas Hietala, "The Myths of Manifest Destiny," in *Major Problems in the History of the American West*. Clyde Milner, Anne Butler, and David Rich Lewis, eds, 169-181 (1985)
- Dan Flores, "Bringing Home All the Pretty Horses: The Horse Trade and the Early American West, 1775-1825," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* (July 2008)

### V. Understanding the West: Science and Art

- Paul Russell Cartwright, *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists* (1969)
- William Goetzman, *Exploration and Empire: The Explorer and the Scientist in the Winning of the West*, (1966)

**VI. Frontier Extraction: Mining and Lumbering**

- Elliott West, *The Saloon on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier* (1987)
- J. Anthony Lukacs, *Big Trouble* (1998)

**VII. Making a Home: Farming and Ranching**

- Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s* (1980)
- Mark Fiege, *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West* (1999)
- Geoff Cunfer, *On the Great Plains: Agriculture and Environment* (2005)

**VIII. Women and Minorities**

- Jan MacKell, *Brothels, Bordellos, and Bad Girls: Prostitution in Colorado, 1860-1930* (2004)
- Albert Hurtado, *Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender, and Culture in Old California* (2001)
- Julie Roy Jeffrey, *Frontier Women: Civilizing the West? 1840-1880* (1989).

**IX. Westward Infrastructure**

- William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (1991)
- Carl Abbott, *How Cities Won the West: Four Centuries Urban Change in Western North America* (2008)

**X. Environmental History in the West**

- Dan Flores, *The Natural West: Environmental History in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains* (2001)
- Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s* (1980)
- Alfred Runte, *National Parks: The American Experience* (1979)
- Stephen Pyne, *How The Canyon Became Grand: A Short History* (1998)
- William DeBuys, *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range* (1985)
- Stephen Pyne, *Year of the Fires! The Story of the Great Fires of 1910* (2001)
- Donald McMillan, *Smoke Wars: Anaconda Copper, Montana Air Pollution and the Courts, 1890-1920*, (2000)

**XI. 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Issues (Cultural/ Economic/ Political)**

- Hal Rothman, *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century American West* (1998)

- Charles Wilkinson, *Fire on the Plateau: Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest* (2001)

## **XII. Natural Resources**

- Louis Warren, *The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America* (1998)
- Bruce Hevly and John Findlay, eds. *The Atomic West* (1998)
- Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water* (1986)

## **XIII. Western Sense of Place: Regional, Comparisons, Art and Film**

- Peter Hassrick, *Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park* (2002)
- Jared Farmer, *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape* (2008)

## **XIV. Western Sense of Place: History, Geography and Literature**

- Richard Etulain, *Re-imagining the Modern American West: A Century of Fiction, History and Art* (1996)
- Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* (1967)
- Annie Proulx, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories* (1999)
- Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories* (1976)