

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**

**THE NORTH AMERICAN FOREST: ECONOMY, ECOLOGY, CULTURE**

**HISTORY 359 SECTION A01 – SPRING TERM 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. R.A. Rajala  
Office: Clearihue B226  
Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-2:15; Thurs. 2:30-3:15 and after class  
Email: [rrajala@uvic.ca](mailto:rrojala@uvic.ca) for serious matters and to arrange meetings  
  
Phone: 721-7394

**TIME:** Thurs. 3:30-6:30

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course involves multi-disciplinary analysis of the human relationship to North American forests. Each week we will meet to discuss readings which investigate topics ranging from pre-contact Aboriginal resource management to current environmental conflicts, devoting particular attention to the ecological impacts of settlement and resource capitalism, modes of production, social relations, and the role of the state. Rather than a history of forestry, then, the course considers forests in terms of the way that they have shaped human behaviour, and in turn been shaped by changing cultural perceptions and economies.

Forests are central to North American narratives of colonialism, exploitation of people, places and their resources, consumption, and state regulation of economic life. Our central task will be to track these histories through rigorous analysis and discussion of recent scholarship and primary sources.

**READINGS**

Three copies of each reading will be on 2-hour reserve in the library. Three or four additional copies will be available in the History Department's Reading Room file cabinet, and most of the articles are available online.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Written Assignments:

1. **Short Essay:** Drawing on the writing of Timothy Silver, Harry Watson and the readings set for discussion on **29 January**, write a 1,000-1,500 word essay analyzing the social, cultural, ecological, and political dimensions of forest use in the American Southeast from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Due Date:** 12 Feb.

2. **Major Research Paper:** This assignment, your major written submission, should draw your immediate attention. Students should develop a topic of your own choice, in consultation with the instructor, or work with the list below. Use of primary sources is strongly encouraged in researching your 3,500-5,000 word essay. Some topics will no doubt involve the use of inter-library loans.

**Due Date:** To Be Discussed.

### Some Possible Subject Areas

Aboriginal Use of Fire

The Forest and Early European Settlement

Cutting the Great Lakes Forest

George Perkins Marsh and Early Conservationism

Progressive-Era Forest Conservation in the United States (or Canada)

The Fight Against Fire (many options)

National Parks in the Canadian Context

Industry, Forestry and the State in Late 19<sup>th</sup>, Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Central Canada

Race, Class, and Unionization in the American South

The Conflicting Visions of Gifford Pinchot and John Muir

The Rise and Fall of the Industrial Workers of the World

Hydro-Electric Projects and Canadian First Nations

Nature and Gender: Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

The Urban Forest: City Parks

Creation of the American National Park System

Tourism, the Automobile, and the Forest

Wildlife Management in North American Parks

The Sierra Club and the Fight for the Redwoods

Aldo Leopold, Robert Marshall, and Wilderness

Tree Planting and Climate on the Prairies

Mechanization and Woods Labour

The Depression-Era Fight for Logging Practice Regulation

D.D.T., Rachel Carson, and Environmentalism

FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps

The Rise of Environmentalism

The Sagebrush Rebellion in the American West  
 The Old-Growth Debate in the Pacific Northwest and/or British Columbia  
 The Policy and Practice of Sustained-Yield Forestry  
 The New Forestry and Ecosystem Management  
 Flexible Production and the Post-Fordist Workplace  
 Reintroducing Fire to Forest Management  
 The Yellowstone Fire of 1988

- 3. Participation:** Students are expected to attend all classes, prepared to contribute meaningfully to discussion. The reading load is subject to discussion on a week-by-week basis.

**Evaluation:**

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Short Paper:	20%
Major Research Paper:	40%
Participation:	40%

**Note:** All assignments must be completed to pass the course. A passing grade in Participation is also required to pass the course. Penalty for late assignments: 4 percent per day.

**SCHEDULE**

- 8 Jan. Introduction
- 15 Jan. Early Commercial and Settlement Frontiers in Context
- Shepard Krech III, "Reflections on Conservation, Sustainability and Environmentalism in Indigenous North America," *American Anthropologist* 107 (Mar. 2005), 78-86.
  - William M. Denevan, "The Pristine Myth: The Landscape of the Americas in 1492," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 82 (Sept. 1992), 369-85.
  - Timothy Silver, *A New Face on the Countryside: Indians, Colonists, and Slaves in South Atlantic Forests, 1500-1800* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 104-38. Chapter 5, "An Accessible Desert."
  - John F. Richards, *The Unending Frontier: An Environmental History of the Early Modern World* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 463-516. Chapter 13, "Furs and Deerskins in Eastern North America."

- 22 Jan. The Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Northeastern Forest
- Charles E. Brooks, "Overrun with Bushes: Frontier Land Development and the Forest History of the Holland Purchase, 1800-1850," *Forest and Conservation History* 39 (Jan. 1995), 17-26.
  - Graeme Wynn, "'Deplorably Dark and Demoralized Lumberers': Rhetoric and Reality in Early Nineteenth-Century New Brunswick," *Journal of Forest History* 24 (Oct. 1980), 168-87.
  - Harry L. Watson, "'The Common Rights of Mankind': Subsistence, Shad, and Commerce in the Early Republican South," *Journal of American History* 83 (June 1996), 13-43.
  - Richard Judd, "A 'Wonderfull Order and Ballance': Natural History and the Beginnings of Conservation in America, 1730-1830," *Environmental History* 11 (Jan. 2006), 8-36.
- 29 Jan. Race, Class, Gender and the Southeastern Forest
- Geoffrey L. Buckley, "The Environmental Transformation of an Appalachian Valley, 1850-1906," *Geographical Review* 88 (Apr. 1998), 175-98.
  - Robert B. Outland III, "Slavery, Work, and the Geography of the North Carolina Naval Stores Industry, 1835-1860," *Journal of Southern History* 62 (Feb. 1996), 27-56.
  - Elizabeth D. Blum, "Power, Danger, and Control: Slave Women's Perceptions of Wilderness in the Nineteenth Century," *Women's Studies* 31 (March/April 2002), 247-66.
  - James R. Green, "The Brotherhood of Timber Workers, 1910-13: A Radical Response to Industrial Capitalism in the Southern U.S.A.," *Past and Present* 60 (Aug. 1973), 161-200.
- 5 Feb. The Great Lakes
- William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1991), 148-206. Chapter 4, "The Wealth of Nature: Lumber."
  - Patricia Jasen, "Native People and the Tourist Industry in Nineteenth-Century Ontario," *Journal of Canadian Studies* 28 (Winter 1993-94), 4-25.
  - Melissa L. Meyer, "'We Can Not Get a Living as We Used To': Dispossession and the White Earth Anishinaabeg, 1889-1920," *American Historical Review* 96 (Apr. 1991), 368-94.
  - Benjamin Heber Johnson, "Conservation, Subsistence, and Class at the Birth of the Superior National Forest," *Environmental History* 4 (Jan. 1999), 80-99.
- 12 Feb. The Far West
- Robert Bunting, "Abundance and the Forests of the Douglas-Fir Bioregion, 1840-1920," *Environmental History Review* 18 (Winter 1994), 41-62.

- Richard A. Rajala, *Clearcutting the Pacific Rain Forest: Production, Science, and Regulation* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1998), 88-122. Chapter 3, "Clearcutting, Forest Science, and Regulation, 1880-1930."
- Emily Brock, "The Challenge of Reforestation: Ecological Experiments in the Douglas Fir Forest, 1920-1940," *Environmental History* 9 (Jan. 2004), 57-79.
- Richard A. Rajala, "Bill and the Boss: Labour Protest, Technological Change, and the Transformation of the West Coast Logging Camp, 1890-1930," *Journal of Forest History* 33 (Oct. 1989), 168-179

16-20 Feb. Reading Break

26 Feb. The Early Conservationist Impulse

- Donald J. Pisani, "Forests and Conservation, 1865-1890," *Journal of American History* 72 (Sept. 1985), 340-59.
- Richard W. Judd, *Common Lands, Common People: The Origins of Conservation in Northern New England* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997), 90-120. Chapter 4, "Common Stewardship and Private Forests."
- Bill Parenteau, "A 'Very Determined Opposition to the Law': Conservation, Angling Leases, and Social Conflict in the Canadian Atlantic Salmon Fishery, 1867-1914," *Environmental History* 9 (July 2004), 436-63.
- Franklin B. Hough, "On the Duty of Governments in the Preservation of Forests," *Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Service* (1873), [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=amrvlg&fileName=v28/amrvlgv28.db&recNum=0&itemLink=?ammem/conservbib:2FIELD\(NUMBER\(v28\)\)v288link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=amrvlg&fileName=v28/amrvlgv28.db&recNum=0&itemLink=?ammem/conservbib:2FIELD(NUMBER(v28))v288link)

5 Mar.. Progressive-Era Conservation

- James Morton Turner, "Charting American Environmentalism's Early (Intellectual) Geography, 1890-1920," *Wild Earth* 10 (Summer 2000), 18-25.
- Gifford Pinchot, "Excerpts From *The Fight for Conservation (1910)*," *Organization and Environment* 17 (June 2004), 232-43.
- John Muir, "Excerpts from 'The Wild Parks and Forest Reservations of the West' and 'The American Forests' From *Our National Parks (1901)*," *Organization and Environment* 15 (Mar. 2002), 61-72.
- Karl Jacoby, "The State of Nature: Country Folk, Conservationists, and Criminals at Yellowstone National Park, 1872-1908," in *The Countryside in the Age of the Modern State: Political Histories of Rural America*, eds. Catherine McNicol Stock and Robert D. Johnston (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001), 91-112.

- 12 Mar. Interwar Complexities
- Alice K. Wondrak, "Wrestling with Horace Albright: Edmund Rogers, Visitors, and Bears in Yellowstone National Park, Part I," *Montana* 52 (Autumn 2002), 2-15.
  - Paul Sutter, "'A Blank Spot on the Map': Aldo Leopold, Wilderness, and U.S. Forest Service Recreational Policy, 1909-1924," *Western Historical Quarterly* 29 (Summer 1998), 187-214.
  - Aldo Leopold, "The Conservation Ethic," *Journal of Forestry* 31 (Oct. 1933), 634-43.
  - Alan MacEachern, "Rationality and Rationalization in Canadian National Parks Predator Policy," in *Consuming Canada: Readings in Environmental History* eds. Chad Gaffield and Pam Gaffield (Toronto: Copp Clark, 1995), 197-212.
- 19 Mar. Production, Policy and Play in Postwar Forests
- Annie Gilbert Coleman, "The Unbearable Whiteness of Skiing," *Pacific Historical Review* 65 (Nov. 1996), 583-614.
  - James Morton Turner, "From Woodcraft to 'Leave No Trace': Wilderness, Consumerism, and Environmentalism in Twentieth-Century America," *Environmental History* 7 (July 2002), 462-84.
  - Richard White, "'Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living?': Work and Nature," in *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*, ed. William Cronon (New York: W.W. Norton, 1995), 171-85.
  - Roger Hayter, "'The War in the Woods': Post-Fordist Restructuring, Globalization, and the Contested Remapping of British Columbia's Forest Economy," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 93 (Sept. 2003), 706-29.
- 26 Mar. Presentations
- 2 Apr. Presentations