

Environmental History in Global Perspective
HIS 302

Professor Alix Cooper
Satisfies: STAS [DEC: H]

Tu/Th 3-4:20

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the new and exciting field of environmental history. Taking a global and comparative approach, the course will examine a series of crucial environmental transformations which have occurred over the course of human history, from agriculture and deforestation in prehistory and classical antiquity to the Columbian encounter, from problems of environmental management in imperial India to the emergence of environmentalism as a global movement today. Key themes of the course will include the ways in which human beings have *thought* about the environment and the ways in which humans have *shaped* the environment. It would be impossible to "cover" *all* of the vast chronological and geographical expanse of world history in a single course; instead, to allow a bit more depth, the course will focus on examples from several regions, including the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, New England, and South Asia. Course requirements will include a midterm, a final exam, and a 8-10 page research paper on a topic of your choice related to the course.