

**HIS 302**  
**Environmental History in a Global Perspective**

Summer-I  
Asynchronous (Online)

Satisfies: STAS [DEC: H]  
Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"  
"Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Instructor: Karl Nycklemoe

This course is an introduction to the field of global environmental history, the study of human-environmental relationships on a comparative or macro scale. Each module, we will review one way humanity has interacted with the world around them throughout time and space: stories of creation, agriculture, disease, industrialization, nuclear power, and the Anthropocene. By comparing how different human societies interact and react to the environment, it is possible to see how human-environmental relationships are not predetermined but formed across species and other natural phenomena. However, humans *have* become world-altering agents due to a variety of factors, beginning with agriculture and accelerated by empire and fossil fuels in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Throughout this course, students are expected to engage with interdisciplinary questions posed by environmental history. How do scholars *narrate* environmental change and human-environmental relationships? What *methods* do scholars utilize to glean information about past environments? What do different *sources* demonstrate about the materiality and cultural specificity of past environments and human societies? Course content is delivered asynchronously, with set due dates for weekly discussion boards, weekly writing responses, and a final research project on a contemporary environmental issue. This course is designed with the assumption that students may not have any previous coursework in history.