This course is an exploration of human-caused transformations in natural environments and a discussion of ideas about nature from prehistory to the present. We will examine topics ranging from agriculture and deforestation in classical antiquity to the “Columbian encounter,” from problems of urban development in New York City to the emergence of environmentalism as a global movement today. The course will focus on case studies from several regions, including Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia. Students will read academic articles, listen to podcasts, watch lectures, and analyze primary sources. They will also develop their skills as environmental historians by reflecting on important themes in the field through weekly responses. For the final assignment, students will produce a final paper through investigating the history and "naturalness/unnaturalness" of a specific place.