



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

4HI493 Den moderna naturen och postkoloniala ekologier, 7,5 högskolepoäng

4HI493 Modern natures and postcolonial ecologies, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

History, Colonial and postcolonial studies

Subject Group

Cultural Studies

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2020-05-07

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2021

Prerequisites

1-90 credits including an independent project of 15 credits in a subject in the humanities or the social sciences or the equivalent, English B/English 6, or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- identify and explain causes for and consequences of colonial industrial production and appropriation of natural resources, as well as consequences for the relation between humans and nature,
- demonstrate skills in analysing the formation of peripheral resource areas in colonial and postcolonial societies,
- critically reflect on location and perspective in understanding the relation between humans and nature.

Content

The course targets the historical processes and social consequences of ecological transformations in flora, fauna, and environment due to the introduction and growth of industrial production and global markets in the modern world. Specific attention is paid

to the importance of location and perspective in assessing how the production of knowledge, the application of large-scale technical infrastructure, and the governance and legal regulation of nature affect the relation between humans and animals. The course juxtaposes and compares modern colonial conquests and postcolonial extractions in areas made into resource peripheries in Asia, Latin America, Europe, Southern Africa, and the Arctic. Students are challenged to make temporal and cross-continental connections.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The course is examined through written assignments and oral seminar presentations. Reexamination is provided in the form of a written assignment or other assignment decided by the examiner.

The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed.

Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted exam or allow the student to conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Avango, Dag. 'Extracting the Future in Svalbard.' In Nina Wormbs, Ed., *Competing Arctic Futures: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, 47-71. ISBN 978-3319916163 [24 pages]

Avango, Dag. 'Working Geopolitics: Sealing, Whaling, and Industrialized Antarctica.' In Klaus Dodds, Alan D. Hemmings and Peder Roberts, Eds., *Handbook on the Politics of Antarctica*. Cheltenham UK; Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017: 485-506, Chap. 31. ISBN 978-1784717674 [21 pages]

Beinart, William, 'Night of the Jackal, Sheep, Pastures and Predators in the Cape', *Past and Present*, Vol. 158, 1989: 172-206. [34 pages]

Carruthers, Jane, *Kruger National Park, A Social and Political History*, Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1995. ISBN 9780869809150 [200 pages]

Cederlöf, Gunnel, and Mahesh Rangarajan, 'The Global Present and Long-Term Perspectives on History: An Introduction', in Cederlöf and Rangarajan, Eds., *At Nature's Edge: The Global Present and Long-Term History*, Oxford University Press, 2018, xiii-xlii. ISBN 9780199489077 [29 pages]

Cioc, Mark, *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography, 1815-2000*. University of Washington Press, 2002. ISBN 0295985003 (252 pages), 77-171 [94 sidor]

D'Souza, Rohan, *Drowned and Dammed: Colonial Capitalism and Flood Control in Eastern India*, Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN 9780195682175 (256 pages), 20-125. ISBN 978-0195682175 [105 pages]

Hölzl, Richard (2011), 'Forests in Conflict. Rural populations and the Advent of Modern Forestry in Pre-industrial Germany, 1760-1860', in Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud and Stephen Mosley, *Common Ground: Integrating the Social and Environmental in History*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011: 198-223. ISBN 978-1443825498 [25 pages]

Jalais, Anu, 'Unmasking the Cosmopolitan Tiger', *Nature and Culture*, Vol. 3, 2008: 25-40. [15 pages]

Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism / Post-Colonialism*. Third edition edited by Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2015. ISBN 9781138807181 [50 pages]

Moseley, Stephen, *The Environment in World History*, Routledge, 2010. ISBN 9780415409568 [116 pages]

Rangarajan, *Nature and Nation: Essays on Environmental History*, Permanent Black, 2015, 46-142. ISBN 978-8178244594 [96 pages]

Robbins, Bruce. 'Blue Water: A Thesis.' *RIAS*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (2015): 47-66. [19 pages]

Swart, Sandra, 'History Eats Its Young', in Gunnel Cederlöf and Mahesh Rangarajan, Eds., *At Nature's Edge: The Global Present and Long-Term History*, Oxford University Press, 2018: 120-141. ISBN 9780199489077 [21 pages]

Sörlin, Sverker. 'Rituals and Resources of Natural History: The North and the Arctic in Swedish Scientific Nationalism.' In Sverker Sörlin and Michael Bravo, Eds., *Narrating the Arctic: A Cultural History of Nordic Scientific Practices*, Canton, Mass., 2002. 73-122. ISBN 978-0881353853 [49 pages]