

HST 302

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

SPRING 2014 - T/TH 11:00-12:15

PROFESSOR FREMION

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POWERS HALL 139



What is “nature?”

Are natural disasters really “natural?”

Can humans control nature?

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental history is the study of the complex and often problematic relationship between humans and nature over time. This course uses a comparative approach to introduce students to environmental history. Throughout the semester, we will explore the reciprocal relationship between humans and their environments across the globe, considering crucial themes in environmental history. Class meetings will be organized around paired readings and lectures (Tuesdays), and workshops (Thursdays) that explore these themes. Through reading, discussion, and research, students will interrogate environmental history in three ways: *historically* (e.g. change/continuity over time, place, culture); *ecologically* (e.g. historical processes at work in divergent environments); and *methodologically* (e.g. various approaches and tools environmental historians and other scholars use to examine environmental change/continuity).