

The Environmental history of Central and Eastern Europe (XIK 250 5 ECTS/ 3 cr)
SL Thu 10–14 aud II, Pál, 2.11.-14.12. (II period)

Registration by October 19th hanna.o.peltonen@helsinki.fi

Period 2 (2.11.2006-14.12.2006)

Date/Times Thursdays 10-14

Location AUD II, Yliopiston päärakennus (vanha puoli), Unionkatu 34

Lecturer Viktor Pál

Teaching Lectures 12h and Review seminars 16h

Content The course includes the broad definition of environmental history and offers an opportunity to explore a wide range of approaches, time scales in Central and Eastern Europe. The course is mainly focusing on the present territory of Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania. Case studies of Germany, the former USSR and Yugoslavia contribute to the course as well. The aim of the seminar is to introduce the long term development and key environmental issues of the past and present of Central and Eastern Europe in the form of a seminar. In addition it aims to provide a forum of introduction and debate over the human-nature relationship in that region. Students need to bring their self motivation, scholarly experience and creativity into the classroom to set and answer questions concerning cross-disciplinary topics.

Lectures cover the long term history of environmental changes in Central and Eastern Europe with a special focus on the 20th century. Major theories concerning that region's environmental past are presented. Environmental histories and cases studies of rural and urban settings and the interaction of these spaces are covered.

Reviews are expected to be contributed by a group of 4 students based on the previously agreed schedule. The delivered review is expected to focus on the major arguments and key problems of texts, and is to indicate discourse and comments.

Lectures

2.11. 2006 Introduction to course; discussion of weightings for assessment. Introduction to the problems, histories and theories of Central and Eastern European environmental history

2.11. 2006 The making of Central and Eastern Europe. The Long-term history of the region's environment

9.11. 2006 Industrialisation, urbanization and the environment in Central and Eastern Europe until 1945

9.11. 2006 The Rise of the public interest towards the environmental after 1945. (Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the GDR)

16.11. 2006 The Rise of the public interest towards the environmental after 1945. (Romania and the former USSR)

16.11. 2006 After the fall. Environmental issues and futures in post-communist Central and Eastern Europe

Review seminars

23.11. 2006

Baker, Susan (2001) "Environmental politics and transition" In: Carter, Frank ed. Environmental Problems of East-Central Europe, London, Routledge. 40-56

Pavlinek, Peter & Pickles, John (2000) "Social and environmental regulation under state socialism 103-125. In: Environmental Transitions: Transformation and Ecological Defense in Central and Eastern Europe. London: Routledge. 83-103.

23.11. 2006

Pavlinek, Peter & Pickles, John (2000) "Nature, society and extensive industrialization" In: Environmental Transitions: Transformation and Ecological Defense in Central and Eastern Europe. London: Routledge. 103-127.

Auer, Matthew ed. (2004) Restore Cursed Earth, Appraising Environmental Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, Matthew Auer ed. Boulder, Colorado: Rowman & Littlefield Press

30.11.2006

Auer, Matthew ed. (2004) Restore Cursed Earth, Appraising Environmental Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, Matthew Auer ed. Boulder, Colorado: Rowman & Littlefield Press.

30.11. 2006

McNeill, John R. (2000) "Regional air pollution since 1870" In: Something New Under the Sun. An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World. London: Penguin. 84-92.

McNeill, John R. (2000) "Dams and diversions" In: Something New Under the Sun. An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World. London: Penguin. 157-183.

7.12. 2006

Turnock, David, (2001) "The Soviet union and the successor states" In: Carter, Frank ed. Environmental Problems of East-Central Europe, London : Routledge 92-117.

Moran, Dominique, (2004) "Lesniki and Leskhozy: Life and Work in Russia's Northern Forests" Environment and History, Volume 10, Number 1, February 2004, pp. 83-105(23)

7.12. 2006

Fitzmaurice, John. (1998) Damming the Danube, Gabčíkovo and the Post-Communist Politics in Europe Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

14.12. 2006 The evaluation and discussion of the delivered papers

14.12.2006. The evaluation and discussion of the delivered papers. Closing remarks and conclusion.

Assessment Participation and activity: in the means of attendance, contribution to discussion and reading – (50%).

Reviews, presentation and essay: a review of 2 articles from the list below are required from each participant. That written review should be delivered in the form of an oral presentation of 15 minutes duration and should be submitted in the form of a 3000 words essay by 30.11.2006. (50%.)

More information: <http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/maisterikoulu/>