

An Introduction to Environmental History

ENVS223

This course introduces students to the impact of humans on natural systems during the Holocene especially since the Neolithic Revolution which began in the Middle East over 9000 years ago. The following topics are introduced:

1. Landscape geography, cultural ecology and environmental history.
2. Philosophical insights into environmental history.
3. Agriculture and the environment: long-term perspectives and present-day issues i.e. the environmental impact of hunting and gathering societies.
4. The agricultural revolution of the Neolithic and its impact: the impact of pre-industrial agriculture and some environmental issues raised by contemporary agriculture.
5. An ecological history of industrialisation and population growth, i.e. population, resources and environment in an industrialised world.
4. Perils of a restless planet: an introduction to hazard research.

This module has proved popular and received extremely favourable comments over many years. The module is of interest to students from both physical and human geography.

Assessment is via a 3 hour exam.

