Syllabus

PBIO 109
Americans and Their Forests: Ecology, Conservation, and History
Call number 05614

Instructor:  
Dr. Glenn Matlack  
405 Porter Hall  
tel. 593 1131  
email matlack@ohio.edu

Teaching assistants:  
Eric Niederhauser, 405 Porter  
email en331709@ohio.edu

Jennifer Philhower, 405 Porter  
email jp209508@ohio.edu

Meeting time and place:  
12:10 – 1:00  Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs  Porter 104

Course outline

March 29-1  Introduction:  Course administration & overview  
Natural forests of North America:  
Read Williams (1989) pages 22-49

April 5-8  Forest clearance on the East Coast: Patterns in the forest  
Read Williams (1989) 53-74

Apr 12-15  Moving west: Forest clearance in the beech-maple ecosystem  
Read Williams (1989) 82-192

April 19  Exam on weeks 1-3

Apr 20-22  The Lake States: the development of industrial forestry  
Read Williams (1989) 193-237, 393-424

Apr 26  Aerial photos: Hand in Part 1

Apr 26-29  The Southern Lumber boom: disappearance of an ecosystem  
Read Williams (1989) 238-288

May 3 - 6  The Pacific Northwest: The end of the resource comes in sight
May 10  Exam on weeks 4-6

May 11-14  Ecology of fire and fire control
Read Williams (1989) 447-454

May 17  Aerial photos: Hand in final essay

May 17-20  Guest speakers: Forest issues in Ohio
Read Williams (1989) 351-368,377-379

May 24-27  Chestnut blight, deer, and the regrowth of eastern forests
Read Williams (1989) 466-494

May 31–Jun 3  Ecology of the suburbs

Exam week  Exam on weeks 7-10; 10:00 AM, Wednesday, 9 June; 104 Porter

Text and other materials

US Geological Survey. 1980 - 2005. Aerial photos of local areas within Ohio (we’ll show you how to order them online).


Assignments

Readings are assigned from the text to complement lecture material.

Students will be asked to prepare a term paper summarizing the forest history of an area personally familiar to them. You are expected to use a variety of documentary sources plus recent aerial photos purchased as class materials. Materials will be handed in for grading on two dates: April 26 and May 17.

Attendance
Students are not required to attend lectures, although class participation is the best possible preparation for assessment.

Assessment

You will be assessed on the basis of exams, quizzes, and the term paper:

- Exam 1 20%
- Exam 2 20%
- Exam 3 (final) 20%
- Term paper 30% (10% on April 26) (20% on May 17)
- Quizzes & in-class writing 10%

Assignments handed in after the deadline will automatically be penalized 10 percentage points per day.

Academic honesty

Plagiarism in any form will result in failure of the course and referral to the University Judiciaries. All ideas not your own must be identified and credited to their source. Note that paraphrasing another person’s work is still plagiarism; you must cite your sources. Please read the website

http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.pdf

If you have any questions about appropriate citation, come see me.