

21H968J/STS415J

NATURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND EMPIRE

Revised Version

Spring 2005
Wednesday 12-3

Professor Harriet Ritvo

Subject Description

An exploration of the relationship between the study of natural history, both domestic and exotic, by Europeans and Americans, and concrete exploitation of the natural world, focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Books

The following books are available for purchase at the MIT bookstore and on the internet, as well as in the MIT Library Reserve Room. Readings not contained in these books will be distributed in class.

Virginia DeJohn Anderson, Creatures of Empire (Oxford)
Philip D. Curtin, Disease and Empire (Cambridge)
Charles Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle (Penguin)
Richard Drayton, Nature's Government (Yale)
Richard Grove, Green Imperialism (Cambridge)
Shepherd Krech, The Ecological Indian (Norton)
Roy MacLeod, ed., Science and the Colonial Enterprise (Osiris 15)
John MacKenzie, The Empire of Nature (Manchester)
Elinor Melville, Plague of Sheep (Cambridge)
Steven Mithen, After the Ice (Harvard)
E. C. Pielou, After the Ice Age (Chicago)
Mary Louise Pratt, Imperial Eyes (Routledge)
John F. Richards, The Unending Frontier (California)
George Stocking, Victorian Anthropology (Free Press)
Sheldon Watts, Epidemics and History (Yale)

Assignments

A research paper of at least 20 pages will be due at the end of the semester. A topic proposal will be due in class on February 23 and a progress report will be due in class on April 6. All stages will be presented orally as well as in writing. In addition, each week two students will introduce the discussion of the readings.

Schedule of Classes and Readings

February 2	Introduction
February 9	Darwin, <u>Voyage of the Beagle</u>
February 16	Darwin, <u>Origin of Species</u> , ch. 11-12 Browne, <u>Darwin: Voyaging</u> , ch. 7-14 Desmond and Moore, <u>Darwin</u> , ch. 8-13 R. D. Keynes, ed., <u>Charles Darwin's Beagle Diary</u> , esp. 351-64 Nora Barlow, ed., "Darwin's Ornithological Notes," <u>Bulletin of BM(NH)</u> (1963), esp. 260-266 Frank Sulloway, "Darwin and His Finches: The Evolution of a Legend" <u>JHB</u> 15 (1982), 1-53
February 23	Pielou, <u>After the Ice Age</u> , especially 5-38,61-80. 99-101, 107-115, 125-128, 227-312 Mithen, <u>After the Ice</u> , especially 1-300 Paper proposals due
March 2	Richards, <u>Unending Frontier</u> , especially 1-61, 199-245, 313-622
March 9	Grove, <u>Green Imperialism</u> , especially 1-152, 309-486
March 16	Melville, <u>Plague of Sheep</u> Anderson, <u>Creatures of Empire</u>
March 23	NO CLASS--Spring Break

March 30 Drayton, Nature's Government

April 6 Stocking, Victorian Anthropology, especially 46-109, 186-283
Pratt, Imperial Eyes, especially 15-143
Krech, Ecological Indian
Paper progress reports due

April 13 Watt, Epidemics and History
Curtin, Disease and Empire

April 20 MacKenzie, Empire of Nature
Ritvo, Animal Estate, 243-288

April 27 MacLeod, Science and the Colonial Enterprise

May 4 and 11 Final presentations

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