COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides an overview of the history of how Americans have used, viewed and valued the natural environment. Beginning with the Indians and the early colonists (15th-16th centuries), the course will examine the cultural, social, economic, political, and technological currents that shaped North Americans' relationships with their environment in early and later industrial eras, after World War II, and finally, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Historical snapshots will center on people living in more natural places, such as farms and forests, as well as more built places, such as factories, cities, and suburbs. Events in the northeastern U.S. will provide a geographic focus, but the course will also look at related happenings elsewhere on the North American continent and beyond. Finally, it will examine at the growing array of movements that have identified themselves as 'environmental,' at the 'greenness' of modern culture, and at the environmental dimensions of a globalizing era.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
U3/U4 standing

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate:
1. An understanding of the larger political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural issues and themes that have contributed to shaping the relationship between American history and identity and the environment
2. Knowledge of the major events, ideas, trends, and problems in American history
3. Knowledge of how the American environment has affected different groups and common institutions
4. Understanding of America’s evolving relationship with the rest of the world.
5. An ability to explain how the past has shaped the present
6. An ability to think critically by analyzing and evaluating historical events and ideas in American history and the environment
7. Ability to question and rethink his/her preconceived notions regarding American history.
8. Critical understanding of a selection of primary sources.
9. Familiarity with different interpretations of the past.
10. Express his/her own interpretations of the past.
11. Practice his/her writing, thinking, and comprehension skills in tests and reading and writing assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. PARTICIPATION – 35% OF FINAL GRADE
a. Attendance -- 10% of your final grade. You will have TWO excused absences to allow for illness or another pressing matter. ALL other absences are unexcused. In case of prolonged illness or absence for a serious reason, please contact me.

b. Assigned readings, written homeworks, and quizzes -- 15% of your final grade. NO late homeworks & NO emailed homeworks will be accepted. There are NO makeup quizzes. Everyone has ONE excused homework OR quiz. HOMEWORKS ARE TO BE TYPED. All homeworks and quizzes are equally weighted unless otherwise specified.

c. Participation in discussion and group work -- 10% of your final grade. This will include students taking on different group roles, as indicated by the instructor, as well as contributing orally to the class.

2. EXAMINATIONS -- 30% OF FINAL GRADE - All examinations are essay format. Students will receive a list of review questions before each exam and there will be an in-class exam review scheduled before each exam.
   a. Midterm to be held October 17 -- 15% of final grade
   b. Final exam to be held during finals week - Tuesday, December 10 11:15-1:45 -- 15% of final grade

3. PAPER -- 15% OF FINAL GRADE - Detailed instructions are posted on Blackboard and the paper will also be discussed in class. This paper will be due October 31, 2013. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day late. The paper must be submitted to SafeAssign prior to any grade being recorded.

4. BOOK REVIEW – 10% OF FINAL GRADE – Detailed instructions are posted on Blackboard and the paper will also be discussed in class. This project will be due November 21. Late book reviews will be penalized 5% per day late. The paper must be submitted to SafeAssign prior to any grade being recorded.

5. EDUCATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT -- 10% OF FINAL GRADE In an effort to disseminate material taught at Stony Brook University to members of the community, you will prepare a lesson on any part of the course and present it to three individuals who are not Stony Brook University students. Detailed instructions are posted on Blackboard and the paper will also be discussed in class. This project will be due December 3. Late projects will be penalized 5% per day late.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
(Subject to change)

Week 1: August 27 & 29
   Introduction
   Native Americans
   Read Steinberg, 11-20

Week 2: September 5 (No class September 3)
   Colonizing: A Biological Revolution
   Read Steinberg, 21-54

Week 3: September 10 & 12
   Remake Agriculture
   Read Steinberg, 55-88

Week 4: September 17 &19
Post-1865 South and West
Read Steinberg, 89-137

Week 5: September 24 & 26
Post 1865 South and West
Read Steinberg, 138-56

Week 6: October 1 & 3
Extinctions and Conservation
Read Steinberg, 157-206

Week 7: October 8 & 10
Conservation II

Week 8: October 15 & 17
Review
Midterm Exam – October 17

Week 9: October 22 & 24
Suburbanization
Read Steinberg, 206-25

Week 10: October 29 & 31
Read Steinberg, 226-61
October 31 - Place Paper Due ***Paper must be SafeAssigned by class period***

Week 11: November 5 & 7
Something in the Wind

Week 12: November 12 & 14
Splintering of Greens

Week 13: November 19 & 21
Nature in Media and Mall
November 21 – Book Review Due ***Paper must be SafeAssigned by class period***

Week 14: November 26 (Happy Thanksgiving!)
Planet U.S.A.
Read Steinberg, 262-86

Week 15: December 3 & 5
Debates
Final Review
December 3 – Educational Service Project Due

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 10 11:15-1:45
THE USUAL DISCLAIMERS…..

Class Participation: Regular attendance is essential for the successful completion of this course. For the course to function properly, students must complete the required weekly readings and be willing to participate in the class discussions. Your in-class performance will comprise a full thirty-five percent of the total grade. You are advised to exchange contact information with one or more of your classmates in case you miss class.

Blackboard: You can access class information, documents, and assignments on-line at: http://blackboard.sunysb.edu. You should be sure to consult it at least once a week; ideally, you would log on before every class. Blackboard will be used to post class-related announcements. It is your responsibility to make sure that the email you check is the one you have marked as preferred on SOLAR so that you will receive copies of announcements. If you used Blackboard during the previous semester, your login information (Username and Password) has not changed. If you have never used Stony Brook's Blackboard system: for help or more information see: http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/helpdesk/docs/blackboard/bbstudent.php. For problems logging in, go to the helpdesk in the Main Library SINC Site or the Union SINC Site, you can also call: 631-632-9602 or e-mail: helpme@ic.sunysb.edu

Papers: Papers should be double-spaced, Times-New Roman, font size 12. Margins should be 1”. Your papers are to be turned in, on time, during class. Do not stick papers in mailboxes or under doors — you do so at your own risk. KEEP A COPY OF EVERYTHING THAT YOU TURN IN: it will be your responsibility to produce it if somehow it is lost or stolen from the pile. Lateness will be penalized.

Writing Center: If you need assistance in writing papers, please contact your instructor as well as SBU’s Writing Center: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/writrhet/writing_center/writing.html

Tests: If you are forced to miss an exam or paper because of an emergency, you must inform the instructor by e-mail or telephone of this fact. In order to receive the opportunity for a makeup, you must document the emergency.

Notice Concerning Disabilities: If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability that may have an impact on your ability to carry out the assigned course work, please contact the staff of the Disabled Student Services (DSS) Office, 128 Educational Communications Center, 632-6748, 632-6749/TDD. DSS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability will remain confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following web site: http://www.chs.sunysb.edu and search Fire safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

Academic Integrity: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/
Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism is using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. Students are continually engaged with other people's ideas: they read them in texts, hear them in lectures, discuss them in their classes, and incorporate them into their own writing. As a result, it is very important that each student give credit where it is due. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and all instances will be reported to the Academic Judiciary. To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use another person’s idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings, or any other pieces of information, that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words. Citing all sources and putting direct quotations in quotation marks are required. For further information on plagiarism, go to http://www.wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf or ask the instructor.

Critical Incident Management Initiative: Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Stony Brook expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people.

Cell Phone and Electronic Devices: Use of cell phones, blackberries, iPods, MP3 players, and other audio and telecommunications devices is strictly prohibited during class. The only exceptions are through permission granted by the instructor for special purposes. During regular class sessions, cell phones must be either in ‘vibrate mode’ or turned off. Calls cannot be answered. Text messaging is not allowed during class. Cell phones must be turned off and enclosed in a case, book bag, briefcase, or the like during tests and exams. YOU are responsible for ensuring this policy is followed. Students MAY NOT have cell phones, electronic dictionaries, calculators, pagers or other “information rich” devices (anything that can receive and/or store many pages of text) in their possession during tests and exams. **ANYONE CAUGHT TEXTING WILL BE DEDUCTED HALF AN ABSENCE.**

No Smoking in the classroom including Electronic cigarettes.

Classroom Policy: Students are expected to follow the Stony Brook Code of Conduct while in the classroom. If you are not familiar with the Code you can find it at:

Behavior that is disruptive to the function of the class, other students, or the instructor will not be tolerated. Poor class behavior or violations to the Code of Conduct will lead to removal from the class, possible withdrawal, or suspension. Food is not permitted in class. Beverages are OK, but please bring a container the can be closed to reduce spills. If a spill occurs please clean it up immediately.
**Electronic Communication Statement:** Email and especially email sent via Blackboard ([http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu](http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu)) is one of the ways the faculty officially communicates with you for this course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you read your email in your official University email account. For most students that is Google Apps for Education ([http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud](http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud)), but you may verify your official Electronic Post Office (EPO) address at [http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo](http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo).

If you choose to forward your official University email to another off-campus account, faculty are not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up Google Mail forwarding using these DoIT-provided instructions found at [http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail](http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail). If you need technical assistance, please contact Client Support at (631) 632-9800 or supportteam@stonybrook.edu.

**Grading Scale:**

- 93-100 percent = A
- 90-92 percent = A-
- 87-89 percent = B+
- 83-86 percent = B
- 80-82 percent = B-
- 77-79 percent = C+
- 73-76 percent = C
- 70-72 percent = C-
- 67-69 percent = D+
- 63-66 percent = D
- 60-62 percent = D-
- 0-59 percent = F