

*EST 361, History of the American Environmental Movement***Term Paper Assignment***

In a variety of forms, the American environmental movement has been active for over a century. As a final project for this course, your assignment is to identify an historical or contemporary American environmental advocate, organization, campaign or issue that you would like to learn more about and write a medium-length *research* paper on that topic. As an integral part of the assignment, you are asked to effectively utilize course concepts, frameworks and understandings in *analyzing* the relation between that subject and the American environmental movement more broadly. Explain, for example: Why is/ was that advocate, organization, campaign or issue significant in the (contemporary) history of the American environmental movement? How has the rich tapestry of the American environmental movement been enriched by this subject? How can a deeper understanding of that advocate, organization, campaign or issue help us understand the way toward sustainability?

Proposal (#T-1). By **Week 10**, submit a short, 1 p., proposal describing topic that you would like to examine in your term paper. (Due at the beginning class, Tuesday, Nov. 1)

Abstract, outline and bibliography (#T-2). By **Week 12**, submit a working abstract, outline and bibliography for your term paper. (Due at the beginning of class, Thursday, Nov. 17)

Term paper (#T-3). Submit the completed term paper by the beginning of the regularly scheduled **Final Exam** time for this class. The paper should be 10-12 pp. in length, double-spaced, 11 or 12 pt. Times New Roman, plus coversheet and references. (Due by 9:00 am, Friday, Dec. 16)

Extra credit. Students may receive extra credit on this assignment for thoughtfully and appropriately incorporating material from their term paper in an already-existing or new Wikipedia entry on that topic. All Wikipedia conventions including user registration, documentation of sources, neutral point of view, etc., must be observed. Print off copies of both the 'before' (for already-existing entries) and 'after/' new Wikipedia entry to which you have contributed. Attach to your term paper as an appendix. (Due with term paper)

Grading. Your term paper will be graded along the following general lines:

- A** Outstanding: fulfils all aspects of the assignment, in an exceptionally clear, coherent, and convincing way; highly effective use of course concepts, frameworks and understandings, plus material from a variety of scholarly sources
- B** *Very good: fulfils all aspects of the assignment, including use of course concepts, frameworks and understandings; well organized (clear thesis statement and conclusion, well developed argument); well documented (use of citations, quotes as appropriate, and references); careful attention to detail (proofread, spelling, citations & references)*
- C** Acceptable: fulfils some, but not all, aspects of the assignment; limited use of course concepts, frameworks, and understandings; argument, organization okay, but could be improved; limited but correctly utilized documentation; some attention to detail, but significant room for improvement; meets minimum length requirements
- D** Minimally passing: marginal evidence of attempt to address the assignment; poor organization, documentation of sources, attention to detail; less than required minimum length
- F** No credit: no viable evidence of effort to undertake the assignment; inappropriate use of secondary material (failure to use quotations or cite sources, as appropriate)

* For ES majors, this paper will become part of the Environmental Studies Student Portfolio, assembled in the senior year.