New Interdisciplinary Graduate Course (Spring 2018)

Introduction to Environmental Humanities:
Theories and Case Studies
(German 6300, taught in English)

Time: TuTh 3:55 p.m.-5:15 p.m. | Location: 050 Jennings Hall | Contact: mergenthaler.4@osu.edu
Instructors: Prof. May Mergenthaler (OSU) & Dr. Christian Meierhofer (University of Bonn)

- What are the responsibilities of the humanities in the face of the human-made environmental crises that endanger life on earth?
- How do the humanities currently respond to these crises?
- What is the Environmental Humanities and what should it become in the future?

Students in this course will seek answers to these and related questions by learning about approaches in the growing interdisciplinary field of environmental humanities, including ecocriticism, environmental history and philosophy, cultural geography and anthropology, political ecology and environmental politics, religious and spiritual ecology, ecofeminism and queer ecology, environmental activism, as well as their intersections.

Every week, we will discuss a different approach and apply it to a specific case, taken from literature, film/media, culture, and/or historical or current events. The course schedule will be discussed in the first meeting with an option to tailor both theory and case studies to students’ research interests.

Grading and requirements:
participation: 10% | presentation: 10% | in-class midterm exam: 25% | in-class final exam: 25%

http://humanorigins.si.edu/research/age-humans-evolutionary-perspectives-anthropocene