

HIS 398
History of Climate Change

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Categories: "Health, Science & Environmental Change,"
"Law, Politics & Social Justice"

MWF 10:00 am-10:53

Prof. Chris Sellers

This course looks at the history of climate change in the modern era, with special focus on its place in the histories of the fossil fuel usages understood to cause it, “natural” disasters now known to increasingly be affected by it, and cultural and interpretative conflicts and controversies it has stirred. After examining some earlier examples of the impact of climate changes on human history, we will focus on climate-related history from the 19th to the early 21st centuries. We will look at how energy usage, industry, cities, science, and politics that have contributed to our current climate crisis, and those sorts of disasters that our changing climate has been worsening. While earlier readings will concentrate on North American and European history, we’ll then also include examples from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and elsewhere. Only part of the class will involve lectures; much will unfold through student participation via discussion, presentation, and some group work. Students will also be expected to write two shorter and one moderately long papers, the latter involving some research on a topic of their own choosing.