**Hist 714**

**Environmental History of Africa**

**Professor Meredith McKittrick**

**Fall 2017**

Office hours: Mon. 10-12, Friday 8:45-9:15 (grad student only), and by appointment, ICC 608

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**Description**

This seminar considers the relationship between the human and non-human world in Africa’s past, with a focus on the past 150 years. Thematically, we will consider how historians have woven studies of climate, disease, water, forests, animals, agriculture, and conservation into the history of the colonial and postcolonial periods. Our readings will cross disciplines, drawing from the tools of anthropology, geography, political science, and political ecology as well as history.

**Requirements**

* Class participation: Student conversation should dominate class discussion.
* Leading discussion: Each student will lead discussion alone once or with a partner twice.
* Reflection papers: 2-3 pages (double-spaced) for seven of the eleven weeks that we have assigned readings. (This does *not* include the journal survey you will write for Week 2.) These should raise questions and draw connections – between weeks, and between areas of the world or other literatures you know.
  + Participation, leading discussion, and reflection papers count for a combined 25% of your final grade.
* Midterm assignment (see end of syllabus for details): Due Oct. 9, 20%
* Final paper prospectus (see end of syllabus for details): Pre-circulated to class by Nov. 27, 5%.
* Final paper (see end of syllabus for details and options): Due Dec. 18, 50%.

**Readings**

Readings marked (Canvas) will be available on the class website. All other articles can be found online through Lauinger Library’s Journal Finder. You should count on acquiring a copy of all other readings, either through purchase, through the library, or through the consortium.

*IV. COURSE SCHEDULE*

WEEK 1: Foundations part 1: The creation of a field

Sept. 1

*Required:*

* William Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature,” *Environmental History* 1:1 (Jan. 1996), 7-29.
* William Beinart, “African History and Environmental History,” *African Affairs* 99:395 (April 2000), 269-302.
* Leroy Vail, “Ecology and History: The Example of Eastern Zambia,” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 3:2 (April 1977), 129-155.
* Helge Kjekshus, *Ecology Control and Economic Development in East African History: The Case of Tanganyika 1850-1950* (Athens: Ohio University Press 1996 (first ed. 1977), pp. 69-79, 126-179. (Canvas)
* Michele Wagner, “’Nature in the Mind’ in nineteenth and twentieth-century Buha, Western Tanzania,” in Greg Maddox, James Giblin and Isaria Kimambo, eds, *Custodians of the Land: Ecology and culture in the history of Tanzania* (James Currey 1996). (Canvas)

*Recommended:*

* Wendy James, “The Politics of Rain Control Among the Uduk,” in Ian Cunnison and Wendy James, eds., *Essays in Sudan Ethnography* (Humanities Press 1972), 31-57. (Canvas)
* Terence Ranger, “Religious Studies and Political Economy: The Mwari cult and the peasant experience in Southern Rhodesia,” in Wim van Binsbergen and Matthew Schoffeleers, eds., *Theoretical Explorations in African Religion* (Routledge and Keegan Paul, 1985), 287-321. (Canvas)
* Robert Harms, *Games against Nature: An Eco-cultural History of the Nunu of Equatorial Africa* (Cambridge UP 1987).

WEEK 2: Foundations part 2: Sources and methods of environmental history

Sept. 8

*Required:*

* Roderick McIntosh, “Social Memory in Mande,” in Roderick McIntosh, Joseph Tainter, and Susan McIntosh, eds., *The Way the Wind Blows: Climate, history and human action* (Columbia UP 2000), 141-180. (Canvas)
* Michael Watts, “Political Ecology,” in Eric Sheppard and Trevor Barnes, eds., *A Companion to Economic Geography* (Blackwell 2000), 257-274. (Canvas)
* Nancy Jacobs, “The Great Bophuthatswana Donkey Massacre: Discourse on the Ass and the Politics of Class and Grass,” *American Historical Review* 106:2 (2001), 485-507.
* Jan Bender Shetler, *Imagining Serengeti: A history of landscape memory in Tanzania from earliest times to the present* (Ohio University Press 2007), Introduction and Part 1.
* Kathryn M. de Luna, *Collecting Food, Cultivating People: Subsistence and Society in Central Africa* (Yale UP 2016), Chs. 1 and 2 (Canvas)
* Oliver J. C. Boles and Paul J. Lane, “The Green, Green Grass of Home: An archeolo-ecological approach to pastoralist settlement in central Kenya,” *Azania* 51:4 (2016),1-24. (Canvas)

*Recommended:*

* J.E.G. Sutton, “Irrigation and Soil Conservation in African Agricultural History with a Reconsideration of the Inyanga Terracing (Zimbabwe) and Engaruka Irrigation Works (Tanzania),” *Journal of African History* 25:1 (1984), 25-41.
* Juhani Koponen, “Population: A dependent variable,” in Maddox et al., *Custodians of the Land,* 19-42. (Canvas)
* Greg Maddox, “Environment and Population Growth in Ugogo, Central Tanzania,” in Maddox et al., *Custodians of the Land,* 43-66. (Canvas)
* “Practices” section of Noel Castree et al., eds., *A Companion to Environmental Geography*.(Wiley-Blackwell 2009).

**Assignment: Write 2-3 pages on, and come prepared to talk about, the following:**

* If you consider yourself an environmental historian (or a prospective one), look through the TOC of *Environmental History* and *Environment and History* for the past 12 years. What are the dominant themes and topics, and how have they changed? Where are the geographical concentrations, and how well represented is Africa?
* If you consider yourself an African historian (or a prospective one), look through the TOC of the *Journal of African History* and one other Africanist journal. What are the dominant themes and topics, and how have they changed? How much of what you would consider environmental history appears in these journals?
* If you consider yourself neither an environmental historian nor an African historian, take a look at two journals from a geographic field in which you plan to conduct research, and answer the questions posed to the African historians above.

WEEK 3: Foundations part 3: Narratives of past environments

Sept. 15

*Required:*

*Part 1: European narratives of African environments*

* Jeremy Swift, “Desertification: Narratives, Winners and Losers,” in Melissa Leach and Robin Mearns, *The Lie of the Land: Challenging Received Wisdom on the African Environment* (James Currey 1996), 73-90. (Canvas)
* William Adams, “Nature and the Colonial Mind,” in William Adams and Martin Mulligan, *Decolonizing Nature: Strategies for Conservation in a Post-colonial era*, (Earthscan 2003). (Canvas)
* Diana Davis, “Restoring Roman Nature,” in Diana Davis and Edmund Burke III, *Environmental Imaginaries of the Middle East and North Africa* (Ohio University Press 2013), 60-86. (Canvas)
* Allan Hoben, “The Cultural Construction of Environmental Policy: Paradigns and Politics in Ethiopia,” in Melissa Leach and Robin Mearns, *The Lie of the Land: Challenging Received Wisdom on the African Environment* (James Currey 1996), 186-208. (Canvas)

*Part 2: Reconstructing climate histories*

* Sharon Nicholson, “The Methodology of Historical Climate Reconstruction and Its Application in Africa,” *Journal of African History* 20 (1979), 31-49.
* Joseph Miller, “The Significance of Drought, Disease and Famine in the Agriculturally Marginal Zones of West-Central Africa,” *Journal of African History* 23 (1982), pp. 17-61.
* George Brooks, “A provisional historical schema for western Africa based on seven climate periods,” *Cahiers d’Etudes Africaines* 26: 101/102 (1986). 43-62.
* James McCann, “Climate and Causation in African History,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 32: 2/3 (1999), 261-79.

*Recommended (part 1):*

* James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine: ‘Development,’ Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho* (University of Minnesota Press 1994).
* Monica van Beusekom, “From Underpopulation to Overpopulation: Frenc Perceptions of Population, Environment and Agricultural Development in French Soudan (Mali), 1900-1960,” *Environmental History* 4:2 (1999), 198-219.
* Kate Showers, *Imperial Gullies: Soil Erosion and Conservation in Lesotho* (Ohio UP 2005).
* Diana Davis, *Resurrecting the Granary of Rome: Environmental History and French Colonial Expansion in North Africa* (Ohio 2007).

*Recommended (part 2):*

* S. Nicholson, D. Nash, et al., “Temperature Variability Over Africa During the Last 2000 Years,” *The Holocene* 23:8 (Aug. 2013), 1085-1094.
* James L. Webb, *Desert Frontier: Ecological and Economic Change along the Western Sahel, 1600-1850* (University of Wisconsin Press 1995).
* George E. Brooks, *Landlords and Strangers: Ecology, society and trade in western Africa, 1000-1630* (Boulder: Westview Press 1993).
* Georgina Endfield and David Nash, “Drought, Desiccation, and Discourse: Missionary Correspondence and Nineteenth-Century Climate Change in Southern Africa,” *Geographical Journal* 168 (2002), 33-47.
* Ilyas Masih et al, “A Review of Droughts on the African Continent: A Geospatial and Long-term Perspective,” *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.* 18 (2014), 3635-3649. (Canvas)

WEEK 4: Colonial conservation and indigenous perspectives

Sept. 22

*Required:*

* James Fairhead and Melissa Leach, *Misreading the African Landscape: Society and Ecology in a Forest-Savanna Mosaic* (Cambridge 1996), all.
* Tamara Giles-Vernick, “We Wander Like Birds: Migration, Indigeneity and the Fabrication of Frontiers in the Sangha River Basin of Equatorial Africa,” *Environmental History* 4:2 (1999), 168-197.

*Recommended:*

* David Andersson, “Depression, Dust Bowl, Demography and Drought: The Colonial State and Soil Conservation in East Africa During the 1930s,” *African Affairs* 83:332 (July 1984), 321-43.
* Kate B. Showers, “Soil Erosion in the Kingdom of Lesotho: Origins and Colonial Response,” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 15:2 (1989), 263-86.
* Pamela Maack, “’We Don’t Want Terraces!’: Protest and identity under the Uluguru land usage scheme,” in Maddox et al., *Custodians of the Land,* 152-170. (Canvas)
* Helen Tilley, *Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950* (University of Chicago 2011).

WEEK 5: Sleeping sickness

Sept. 29

*Required:*

* James Giblin, “Trypanosomiasis Control in African History: An evaded issue?” *Journal of African History* 31 (1990), 59-80.
* Richard Waller, “Tsetse Fly in Narok, Kenya,” *Journal of African History* 31 (1990), 81-101.
* Luise White, “Blood, Bugs, and Archives: Debates over Sleeping-Sickness Control in Colonial Northern Rhodesia, 1931-1939,” *Speaking With Vampires* (University of California Press 2000),208-241. (Canvas)
* Kirk Hoppe, *Lords of the Fly: Sleeping Sickness Control in British East Africa, 1900-1960* (Praeger 2003), Chapters 1-3, 6 (pp. 1-80, 143-76). (Canvas)
* Mari Webel, “Mapping the Infected Landscape: Colonial knowledge, African labor, and sleeping sickness prevention in the earth 20th century,” *Environmental History,* 20:4 (2015), 722-735.

*Recommended:*

* John Ford, *The Role of the Trypanosomiases in African Ecology: A study of the tsetse fly problem* (Clarendon Press 1971).
* Gordon Matzke, “A Reassessment of the Expected Development Consequences of Tsetse Control Efforts in Africa,” *Social Science and Medicine* 17:9 (1983), 531-537. (Canvas)
* Maryinez Lyons, *The Colonial Disease: A social history of sleeping sickness in northern Zaire, 1900-1940* (Cambridge UP 1992).
* Michael Worboys, “The Comparative History of Sleeping Sickness in East and Central Africa, 1900-1914,” *History of Science* 32:1 (1994), 89-102. (Canvas)
* <http://partners.nytimes.com/library/national/science/health/052100drug-merchants.html>
* <http://www.who.int/trypanosomiasis_african/country/foci_AFRO/en/>

WEEK 6

Oct. 6: No class: I am away at a conference

**Primary source analyses due Oct. 10**

WEEK 7: Humans and animals

Oct. 13

*Required:*

* Roderick Neumann, *Imposing Wilderness* (Berkeley: University of California Press 2002).
* Shetler, *Imagining Serengeti* part 2

*Recommended:*

* Katherine Homewood and W.A. Rodgers, “Pastoralism, conservation and the overgrazing controversy,” in David Anderson and Richard Grove, eds., *Conservation in Africa: People, policies and practice* (Cambridge 1987), 111-128. (Canvas)
* Stephen Ellis, “Of Elephants and Men: Politics and nature conservation in South Arica,” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 20:1 (1994), 53-69.
* William Beinart, “The Night of the Jackal: Sheep, pastures and predators in the Cape,” *Past and Present* 158:1 (1998), 172-206.
* Andrew B. Smith, *African Herders: Emergence of Pastoral Traditions* (Altamira 2005).
* Lance van Sittert and Sandra Swart, eds., *Canis Africanis: A Dog History of Southern Africa* (Brill 2008).
* Sandra Swart, *Riding High: Horses, Humans and History in South Africa* (Johannesburg: Wits University Press 2010).
* Nancy Jacobs, *Birders of Africa: History of a Network* (Yale UP 2016).

WEEK 8: Social and agrarian history

Oct. 20

*Required:*

* Henrietta Moore and Megan Vaughan, *Cutting Down Trees: Gender, Nutrition and Agricultural Change in the Northern Province of Zambia* (Heinemann 1993).
* Audrey Richards, *Land, Labour and Diet in Northern Rhodesia: An economic study of the Bemba tribe* (Oxford University Press, International Africa Institute, 1939), excerpt. (Canvas)
* Colin Trapnell, *The Soils, Vegetation and Agriculture of North-eastern Rhodesia* (Lusaka, Government Printer, 1953), excerpt. (Canvas)

*Recommended:*

* Elias Mandala, Work and Control in a Peasant Economy: A History of the Lower Tchiri Valley in Malawi, 1859-1960 (University of Wisconsin Press 1990).
* Sara Berry, *No Condition is Permanent: The Social Dynamics of Agrarian Change in Sub-Saharan Africa* (University of Wisconsin Press 1993).
* Megan Vaughan, *The Story of an African Famine: Gender and Famine in 20th-Century Malawi* (Cambridge 1993, 2007).
* Charles van Onselen*, The Seed is Mine: The life of Kas Maine, a South African sharecropper, 1894-1985* (Hill and Wang 1997).
* Nancy Jacobs, *Environment, Power, and Injustice: A South African History* (Cambridge 2003).
* William Beinart, *The Rise of Conservation in South Africa* (Oxford UP 2003); but also see review by Lance van Sittert, “The Nature of Power: Cape environmental history, the history of ideas and neoliberal historiography,” *Journal of African History* 45:2 (2004), 305-313.
* William Beinart and JoAnn McGregor, *Social History and African Environments* (Ohio UP 2003).

WEEK 9: Precolonial political ecologies and colonialism

Oct. 27

*Required:*

* David Gordon, *Nachituti’s Gift: Economy, Society and Environment in Central Africa* (University of Wisconsin 2006).

*Recommended:*

* Steven Feierman, *Peasant Intellectuals: Anthropology and History in Tanzania* (Wisconsin 1990).
* Miriam Goheen, *Men Own the Fields, Women Own the Crops: Gender and Power in the Cameroon Grassfields.* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press 1996).
* Terence Ranger, *Voices from the Rocks: Nature, Culture and History in the Matopos Hills of Zimbabwe* (Indiana UP 1999).
* Emmanuel Kreike, *Recreating Eden: Agro-ecological change, food security, and environmental diversity in Southern Angola and Northern Namibia, 1890-1960* (Heinemann 2004).

WEEK 10: The Sahelian drought

Nov. 3

*Required:*

* Jule Charney, “Dynamics of Deserts and Drought in the Sahel,” *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* 101 (1975), 193-202. (Canvas)
* Michael Watts, Silent Violence: Food, famine and peasantry in northern Nigeria (University of Georgia Press 1983), excerpt. (Canvas)
* Matthew Turner, "Overstocking the Range: A critical analysis of the environmental science of Sahelian pastoralism," Economic Geography 69:4 (1993), 402-421.
* Yen-Ting Hwange, Dargan M.W. Frierson, and Sarah M. Kang, "Anthropogenic Sulfate Aerosol and the Southward Shift of Tropical Precipitation in the late 20th Century," Geophysical Research Letters 40 (2013), 1-6.
* Michael Mortimer and WIlliam Adams, Working the Sahel: Environment and society in northern Nigeria (Routledge 1999), excerpt. (Canvas)

Recommended:

* USAID, "Desert Encroachment on Arable Lands" (1972).  (Canvas)
* David Dalby and R.J. Harrison Church, eds., Drought in Africa: Report of the 1973 symposium (University of London 1973). (Canvas)
* United Nations Conference on Desertification, "Round-Up, Plan of Action, and Resolutions," 1978. [http://www.ciesin.org/docs/002-478/002-478.html (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://www.ciesin.org/docs/002-478/002-478.html" \t "_blank)
* Earl Scott, ed., Life Before the Drought (Allen and Unwin 1984).
* Michael Mortimer, Adapting to Drought: Farmers, famines and desertification in West Africa (Cambridge 1989).
* Claude Raynaut, Societies and Nature in the Sahel (Routledge 1997).
* Michael Mortimer, Roots in the African Dust: Sustaining the sub-Saharan drylands (Cambridge 1998).

WEEK 11: Water

Nov. 10

*Required:*

* Joost Fontein, *Remaking Mutirikwi: Landscape, water and belonging in Southern Zimbabwe* (James Currey 2015).
* Kate Showers, “Colonial and Post-Apartheid Water Projects in Southern Africa,” Boston University African Studies Seminar Paper No. 214 (1998). (Canvas)

*Recommended:*

* Elizabeth Colson, *The Social Consequences of Resettlement* (Manchester University Press 1971).
* William Adams, *Wasting the Rain: Rivers, people and planning in Africa* (University of Minnesota Press 1993).
* Emmanuel Akeampong, *Between the Sea and the Lagoon: An eco-social history of the Anlo of southeastern Ghana c. 1850 to recent times* (Ohio UP 2001).
* Donald Moore, *Suffering for Territory: Race, place and power in Zimbabwe* (Duke UP 2005).
* David McDermott-Hughes, “Hydrology of Hope: Farm dams, conservation and whiteness in Zimbabwe,” *American Ethnologist* 33:2 (2006), 269-87.
* Muchapara Musemwa, *Water, History and Politics in Zimbabwe: Bulawayo’s struggles with theeEnvironment, 1894-2008* (Africa World Press 2008).
* JoAnn McGregor, *Crossing the Zambezi: The politics of landscape on a central African frontier* (James Currey 2009).
* Karen Bakker, “Water,” in *A Companion to Environmental Geography,* Noel Castree et al., eds. (Wiley-Blackwell 2009), 515-532. (Canvas)
* Julia Tischler, *Light and Power for a Multiracial Nation: The Kariba Dam Scheme in the Central African Federation* (Cambridge 2013).
* Allan Isaacman and Barbara Isaacman, *Dams, Displacement, and the Delusion of Development: Cahora Bassa and its legacies in Mozambique, 1965-2007* (Ohio UP 2013).
* Meredith McKittrick, “Making Rain, Making Maps: Competing geographies of water and power in southwestern Africa,” *Journal of African History* 58:2 (2017), 187-212.

WEEK 12: Transnational exchanges

Nov. 17

*Required:*

* Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, *Bitter Roots: The search for healing plants in Africa* (University of Chicago Press 2014).
* Carl Death, *The Green State in Africa* (Yale UP 2016), Ch. 5, “Green Economies and Environmental Markets,” 152-192. (Canvas)

*Recommended:*

* Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The biological expansion of Europe* (Cambridge 1986).
* Calestous Juma, *The Gene Hunters: Biotechnology and the scramble for seeds* (Zed Books 1989).
* Karen Middleton, “The Ironies of Plant Transfer: The case of the prickly pear in Madagascar,” in William Beinart and JoAnn McGregor, eds., *Social Histories of African Environments* (Ohio UP 2003), 45-71*.* (Canvas)
* Lance van Sittert, “’Our Irrepressible Fellow Colonist’: The biological invasion of prickly pear in the Eastern Cape, c. 1890-1910,” in Stephen Dovers, Ruth Edgecombe, and Bill Guest, eds., *South Africa’s Environmental History: Cases and Comparisons* (Ohio UP 2003)*,*  139-159. (Canvas)
* James McCann, *Maize and Grace: Africa’s Encounter with a New World Crop* (Harvard 2005).
* Emily Brownell, “International Trash and the Politics of Poverty: Conceptualizing the Transnational Waste Trade” in *The Nation State and the Transnational Environment*, coedited by Mark Lawrence, Erika Bsumek and David Kinkela (Oxford University Press 2013). (Canvas)
* Corey Ross, *Ecology and Power in the Age of Empire: Europe and the transformation of the tropical world* (Oxford 2017), Ch. 5, “Peripheral Centers: Copper mining and colonized environments in Central Africa,” 164-198. (Canvas)
* (For a precolonial history of copper mining, see Eugenia Herbert, *Red Gold of Africa* (University of Wisconsin 1984.))
* Philipp Lehmann, “Infinite Power to Change the World: Hydroelectricity and engineered climate change in the Atlantropa project,” *American Historical Review* 121:1 (2016), 70-100.
* Meredith McKittrick, “Theories of ‘reprecipitation’ and climate change in the settler colonial world,” (article in production at History of Meteorology, forthcoming). (Canvas)
* Meredith McKittrick, “Talking about the Weather: Settler vernaculars and climate anxieties in early 20th-century South Africa,” forthcoming in *Environment and History* (2018). (Canvas)

WEEK 13

Dec. 1

Presentations and discussion of final paper prospectuses

**Details of class assignments**

***Midterm paper (due Oct. 10):*** You will perform an environmental analysis of primary sources. Students will choose either two travel narratives, two published colonial reports, or one of each from the same area. Papers should be 10-14 pages. *If you are a first-year MA student who has no background in using primary sources, you have the option of using one source only; those papers should be 6-10 pages.*

Travel writing was an immensely popular genre in 19th-century Europe. Europeans who traveled the continent in the 19th century frequently wrote about their adventures for audiences back home – indeed, this was often how they funded their travels. There are literally hundreds of these narratives, written by missionaries, adventurers, men of science, military men, professional traders and hunters, and the occasional traveling woman. If you choose this option, you will select two narratives that look interesting, dating from between 1750 and 1900. Note that many publication dates will be from the second half of the 20th century, because these were often updated and published as new editions. Be sure the travel took place before 1900.

Published colonial reports, often called “Blue Books” in British colonies, are another genre of writing and appeared mainly during the heyday of colonial rule, between about 1920 and 1960. They dealt with inquiries into “revolts,” problems of drought or land degradation, economic development, population, and much more. Even colonial reports that are not explicitly about environmental or natural resource issues can be read for environmental topics and information. If you go this route, choose two reports, preferably geographically or thematically related, and mine them for environmental information. Note: You will need to get most of these through ILL. Play it safe and order three or four so you have some options about which to write about, in case some don’t yield much.

You may also choose one travel narrative and one colonial report, but they need to be about the same place. This can be a bit tricky to find, but it is possible, especially if you can read other languages (French, Portuguese, or German, primarily).

What you will write about: If you were to use these sources to begin researching the environmental history of this region (or regions), what questions would you want to investigate, based on the material you have – and why? What are the limitations of these publications as sources for environmental history? Give examples from the texts, and analyze the language closely where appropriate. *Do not just suggest research that gets at European narratives of the environment*. What other topics, questions, hints, clues, and information can you mine from the sources? Invoke readings we have done so far if appropriate, but this is not required.

***Final paper (due Dec. 18):*** The final semester assignment will be negotiated between the student and the professor, depending on the student’s needs. Possibilities include

* A 16- to 20-page historiographical essay, which compares scholarly approaches to an environmental topic in Africa and somewhere else in the world.
* A 16- to 20-page examination of the Africanist literature around an environmental theme we did not address (or barely addressed) in class.
* An Africa-based, transnational (including Africa) or comparative environmental history research paper or prospectus. Research papers should be 20-30 pages; prospectuses should be 12-15 pages.
* A 16- to 20-page paper that examines how different disciplines have treated a common aspect of the environment; if the topic is narrow enough this paper may also take a geographically comparative approach.

*First-year MA students without an undergraduate degree in history will have the option of writing a slightly shorter paper, in consultation with the professor.*

A two- to three-page description of your final assignment and the question you seek to investigate is due **Nov. 27,** for circulation to the class. We will discuss these Dec. 1 and classmates will offer you feedback, hints for readings, and anything else you want them to comment upon.