Environmental Problems Seminar
ENVI.1020

Environmental Game Changer Paper

Over the course of the semester we will hear about many different environmental problems and a few of the solutions that have been developed to combat these problems. Have you ever thought about what started it all in the first place? What caused the spike in population growth in the 20th century? How were people able to live in sky scrapers in big cities? Some of the answers for such questions are as simple as penicillin, and elevators! These seemingly commonplace inventions actually changed the course of civilization.

Your assignment is to write a paper on a game changer. What was introduced into society that changed the direction of civilization? How did it change society? What were conditions like prior to its introduction and after? What are the long-term consequences? Your subject should be something that is easily researched using robust sources. Your topic should also be approved by the instructor no later than February 29th, at the start of class. A clearly written abstract with five primary source citations is due March 28th, at the start of class.

Your final paper should be no shorter than four pages—double spaced—using nothing larger than 12 point font. You should have a minimum of five primary sources. These should be formally cited in your paper with a subsequent list at the end. This can be easily accomplished using MS Word. Please contact Prof. Weeden should you have any difficulty.

Each paper should include a description of the subject. When it was invented or introduced. What were the conditions at the time and what are possible long-term effects of having this item or system in operation? All assignments are to be turned in electronically via email. (lori_weeden@uml.edu)

The final paper is due April 25, at the start of class.

Rubric:

10% Approval of Topic due Feb 29th
20% Abstract well-written and subject clear with minimum of 5 primary sources
20% Final paper well written without obvious grammatical errors
20% Citations in paper and listed at end properly. Should have no fewer than 5 primary sources
30% Show clear history and future implications of your game changer topic