

**GEO 3370 / CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES / Spring 2005**

# **Review Paper Guidelines**

## **Basic Objectives & Guidelines**

This paper is intended to give you the opportunity to read and review additional articles or books that deal with some of the topics covered in class. In most cases, you will read one or two articles or book chapters and write a succinct summary and review of that material, focusing on the main points of the article(s) and making some observations of your own about the relevance of what the author has said. In some cases, you may review a debate between two or more writers on a resource and environmental issue.

In general the paper should be **5 to 6 pages** long, not including the title page. Papers must be typed (word processed) and **double-spaced**, using a normal-sized typeface and normal margins. Papers are due by **5 PM Tuesday February 8, 2004**. *An overdue paper may be penalized (unless the student has a legitimate documented reason for the delay). A paper overdue by one week or more will receive a failing grade.*

## **Some general guidelines**

**Title Page:** You should have a **title page**, which includes your name and date and the title(s) and bibliographic references to the article(s) you're reviewing. The generic title would be "A Review of ..."

**Page numbers:** Include page numbers, either by hand or with your word processor settings. Page one is the first page of text (not your title page).

**Concentrate on the main points:** Writing a good short review can be more challenging than you'd expect. Focus on summarizing the central important points in the article you're reviewing and discussing their significance – the main issues the author discusses; the prevailing or alternate viewpoint(s) that he/she is arguing against or trying to modify; the main evidence and information he/she presents and how that evidence was collected (i.e., how the science was done). In general, end the paper with a brief discussion of the relevance of the issue or topic to larger concerns about our understanding or interpretation of environmental, resource, or related matters.

**Eliminate fluff:** To help you be succinct, you should avoid fluffy and overblown verbiage that takes up unnecessary space and adds little to the paper. For example, it's preferable to start your paper with a straightforward statement such as: "This article discusses ...."; rather than: "From time immemorial humankind has debated whether ..." Think about what needs to be in the review to make the important points and what can be dispensed with (and will probably make you cringe sometime in the future).

**Avoid excessive quotations:** Although there will be times when you want to quote directly from the article you're reviewing, your paper should not consist of a series of quotes strung together. When you do quote directly, be sure to include quotation marks (or indents for longer quotes), cite the page numbers, and the specific article if you're reviewing more than one.

**No plagiarism!** You may find yourself borrowing phrases from your sources. A small amount of this is ok, but if it gets excessive, it can amount to plagiarism -- i.e., the misrepresentation of others' words as your own. This can be inadvertent, but some people lift all or large sections of papers from other sources. This is true plagiarism, and you can be subject to severe university penalties for this. **Write in your own words**, even if they're not as good as the original author. If there is a question, I may ask to see your notes to prove you really did the work.

## Readings for Paper #1

Below are suggested articles or book chapters that would be appropriate for your review papers. In some cases, you should do two related articles (as in the first two listed below) Most of these are available from the library website, or books in the library, or in many cases, you may borrow the book or chapter directly from me.

Mann, Charles. 2002. "1491." *Atlantic Monthly*, March 2002. Pp. 41-53. (Available online at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2002/03/mann.htm>); **and:**

Heckenberger, Michael, et al. 2003. "Amazonia 1492: pristine forest or cultural parkland?" *Science* 301 (19 Sept., 2003): 1710-1714. (Available through library e-journals link)

Bar-Yosef, Ofer. 1998. "The Natufian culture in the Levant, threshold to the origins of agriculture." *Evolutionary Anthropology* 6 (5): 159-177. (Available through library e-journals link)

Pollan, Michael. 2001. *The Botany of Desire: A plant's-eye view of the world*. New York: Random House. Chap 1, "The Apple" (pp 1-58), or Ch.4, "The Potato" (p183-238) (See me for copy)

Crosby, Alfred. 1986. *Ecological Imperialism: The biological expansion of Europe, 900-1900*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter(s) 2, 4, 7, 8 (any one or two chap's). Copy in library or see me.

Diamond, Jared. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: the fates of human societies*. New York: Norton. Chap. 9, 10, &/or 11. Copy in library or see me

Cronon, William. 1983. *Changes in the Land: Indians, colonists and the ecology of New England*. New York: Hill and Wang. (any one or two chap's). Copy in library or see me.

Laliberte, Andrea & William Ripple. 2003. "Wildlife encounters by Lewis and Clark: a spatial analysis of interactions between native Americans and wildlife." *BioScience* 53 (10): 994-1003. (Available through library e-journals link)/ **Also either the following article or another paper listed in the bibliography of the article above:**

Martin, PS & Szuter, CR. 1999. "War zones and game sinks in Lewis and Clark's West." *Conservation Biology* 13: 36-45.

Harris, David R., ed. 1996. *The Origins and Spread of Agriculture and Pastoralism in Eurasia*. London: UCL Press. (See me for copy & for appropriate chapters)

Moleson, Theya. 1994. "The eloquent bones of Abu Hureyra." *Scientific American* 271: 70-75. (Available through library e-journals link)

Reader, John. 1997. *Africa: A biography of the continent*. New York: Knopf. (see me for appropriate chapters) Copy in library or see me

Perlin, John. 1989. *A Forest Journey: the role of wood in the development of civilization*. New York: Norton. (see me for appropriate chapters) See me for copy

Newman, Lucile, ed. 1990. *Hunger in History: food shortage, poverty, and deprivation*. Oxford: Blackwell. [Any of Chap's 3 – 10](#). [Copy in library or see me](#)

Smil, Vaclav. 1994. *Energy in World History*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chap. 3, 4, or 5 (trad'l agriculture; preindustrial societies; fossil fuel history). [Copy in library or see me](#)

Richards, John F. 2003. *The Unending Frontier: An environmental history of the early modern world*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [See me for library copy](#) & for appropriate chapter (Ch's 7, 9, 12, or others). {Chapters on energy & Industrial Revolution; sugar in the West Indies; history of fur trade in N. America; history of cod fishing in N. Atlantic; whaling in northern oceans, etc.}

McNeill, J.R. 2000. *Something New Under the Sun: An environmental history of the twentieth-century world*. New York: Norton. [Chap's 3 &/or 4 on history of urban growth & air pollution](#) [See me for library copy](#)

#### **Articles on hunter-gatherer or pastoral groups:**

The best source is the journal *Human Ecology* (available through UF library website). Either search through recent issues yourself or see me for specific recommendations.

#### **Debates on population, resources & resource limits:**

Ehrlich, Paul. 1997. "Ehrlich's fables." *Technology Review* 100, (1): 38-48 (or other readings by Ehrlich; [library website](#) or [see me](#)); **And** chapter from:

Simon, Julian. 1996. *The Ultimate Resource 2*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press. (see me for chapter suggestions) [Chap's 1, 2, 4 &/or others \(see me\)](#) [Copy in library or see me](#)

Ehrlich, Paul. 1998. "Rivets and redundancy." *BioScience* 48 (5; May, 1998): 387. **And:** Davidson, Carlos. 2000. "Economic growth and the environment: alternatives to the limits paradigm." *BioScience* 50 (5): 433-440.

Van den Bergh, Jeroen and Piet Rietveld. 2004. "Reconsidering the limits to world population: Meta-analysis and meta prediction." *BioScience* 54 (3): 195-204.

Lomborg, Bjorn. 1998 & 2001. *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the real state of the world*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press. [\(See me for appropriate chapters\)](#) **And**

Bongaarts, John. 2002. "Population: Ignoring its impact." *Scientific American* (Jan. 2002): 67-69 (or other debates on Lomborg's assertions).

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Other journal articles or book chapters would also be appropriate, if they deal with one of the topics covered in the first part of this course, but [you should check with me before deciding on them](#). In particular articles from the following journals are likely to be appropriate:

**BioScience**

**Scientific American**

**Science**

**Population & Development Review**

**Human Ecology** (articles on pre-agricultural groups)

**Nature**

**American Scientist**

**Environmental Conservation**

**Discover**