Subject Description

An exploration of the relationship between the study of natural history, both domestic and exotic, by Europeans and Americans, and concrete exploitation of the natural world, focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Books

The following books are available for purchase at the MIT bookstore and on the internet, as well as in the MIT Library Reserve Room. Readings not contained in these books will be distributed in class.

Virginia DeJohn Anderson, *Creatures of Empire* (Oxford)
Philip D. Curtin, *Disease and Empire* (Cambridge)
Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle* (Penguin)
Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism* (Cambridge)
Roy MacLeod, ed., *Science and the Colonial Enterprise* (Osiris 15)
Elinor Melville, *Plague of Sheep* (Cambridge)
Steven Mithen, *After the Ice* (Harvard)
E. C. Pielou, *After the Ice Age* (Chicago)
Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes* (Routledge)
John F. Richards, *The Unending Frontier* (California)
George Stocking, *Victorian Anthropology* (Free Press)
Sheldon Watts, *Epidemics and History* (Yale)
Assignments

A research paper of at least 20 pages will be due at the end of the semester. A topic proposal will be due in class on February 23 and a progress report will be due in class on April 6. All stages will be presented orally as well as in writing. In addition, each week two students will introduce the discussion of the readings.

Schedule of Classes and Readings

February 2
Introduction

February 9
Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*

February 16
Darwin, *Origin of Species*, ch. 11-12
Browne, *Darwin: Voyaging*, ch. 7-14
Desmond and Moore, *Darwin*, ch. 8-13
R. D. Keynes, ed., *Charles Darwin’s Beagle Diary*, esp. 351-64
Nora Barlow, ed., “Darwin’s Ornithological Notes,”
*Bulletin of BM(NH)* (1963), esp. 260-266
Frank Sulloway, “Darwin and His Finches: The Evolution of a Legend”
JHB 15 (1982), 1-53

February 23
Mithen, *After the Ice*, especially 1-300
Paper proposals due

March 2
Richards, *Unending Frontier*, especially 1-61, 199-245, 313-622

March 9
Grove, *Green Imperialism*, especially 1-152, 309-486

March 16
Melville, *Plague of Sheep*
Anderson, *Creatures of Empire*

March 23
NO CLASS--Spring Break
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Drayton, <em>Nature’s Government</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Stocking, <em>Victorian Anthropology</em>, especially 46-109, 186-283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pratt, <em>Imperial Eyes</em>, especially 15-143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Krech, <em>Ecological Indian</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper progress reports due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Watt, <em>Epidemics and History</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curtin, <em>Disease and Empire</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>MacKenzie, <em>Empire of Nature</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>MacLeod, <em>Science and the Colonial Enterprise</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4 and 11</td>
<td>Final presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>