

415: Environmental Interventions - Homework 2

Due: Sept 11.

Goals:

- To reflect on the contemporary relevance of the relationship between culture and the environment set up in Cronon's *Changes in the Land*
- To get a sense of some of the kinds of non-technical interventions possible around the environment
- To begin preparing for short essay 1 (and therefore also for the final course project)

1. Starting discussions

Answers to these questions do not need to be in the form of polished writing. The goal is to get you thinking about the issues we'll be discussing in this course. Bring your answers in written form to class for discussion.

1a. (a list) What specific aspects or values of colonial culture does Cronon argue in *Changes in the Land* lead directly to environmental changes in the land previously colonized by native Americans?

1b. (1 page) Which of these aspects do you believe is still playing a large role in contemporary American culture? To what extent can these cultural values be thought of as leading to the kinds of environmental problems we discussed in class last week?

2. Finding out what's out there

Environmental interventions do not have to be technologically-based. Many people are organizing groups around alternative modes of living and engaging in direct action. Find a link to or on-line news article about at least one group, organization, project, or individual involved in an environmental intervention. Post a link and a brief description on our wiki page of example interventions at <https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/INFO415/Example+Interventions>

3. Short essay preparation

Prior to doing this part of the homework, please read the short essay assignment.

3a. (Brief list/brainstorming) Make a list of the material flows that you are aware of coming in and out of the place where you live.

3b. (Brief response) Which of these material flows do you believe would be the most interesting to pursue for the short essay and why? (More than one answer OK)

3c. (List) For each flow you are interested in, list 1 book and 1 journal article from the Cornell library catalog that would help you to better understand the history of that flow.

Remember your weekly post to the wiki is due Friday, Sept. 7 and your weekly comment is due by Tuesday before class. <https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/INFO415/General+Discussion>