



HIU12049 **Humans and the Environment in Modern History**

Co-ordinator **Katja Bruisch**

Credits **5 ECTS**

Semester **Michaelmas Term**

Assessment A learning journal (40%), and a 2,000-2,500 word end-of-term essay (60%)

Module Description: How are local and global environmental concerns linked to histories of racism, colonialism, and capitalism? What does the climate and biodiversity emergency of the current day mean for our approach to writing history? This module will address these questions by taking an environmental history perspective on key themes in modern history. We will discuss European imperialism, the Industrial Revolution, industrial food production and international conflict to explore the intersecting histories of social and ecological change in the modern world. We will also trace struggles for environmental justice and the rise of environmental politics as responses to modernity's unintended by-products, such as pollution, the loss of wildlife, nuclear accidents, and climate change. You will learn key approaches to the exciting study of human-nature relations in the past and explore local and transnational case studies that exemplify how the environment has mattered in modern history.