Unit Description for unit catalogue: (maximum 150 words)
In today’s developed countries we are all beneficiaries of the industrial revolution, whether gauged in longer life expectancies, material comforts, extensive leisure, or educational, health and welfare services. Reflecting this, the recent historiography of Britain’s industrial revolution is dominated by attempts to measure its pace, explain its causes and analyse its social consequences. So far, few historians have investigated its impact on the environment. However, this overwhelmingly positive, post-war perspective on industrialization is now subject to re-assessment in the face of current anxieties concerning climate change, population increase, and finite natural resources. In this unit we will investigate both the immediate and the long-term environmental implications of British industrialization during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Without losing sight of either its causes or its socio-economic benefits, we will focus primarily on its environmental consequences, with the goal of achieving a more balanced history and an informed perspective on present-day controversies.

Extended Description: (if applicable)

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour interactive lectures.

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3000 word essay (50%), 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

Essential Reading – maximum of 6 titles
G. Clark, A Farewell to Alms: a brief economic history of the world (Princeton UP, 2007)
J. Hassan, A History of Water in Modern England and Wales (Manchester UP, 1998)

Further Information (eg. contact tutor/blackboard sites etc.)

Date written: 08/04/10
Date revised: 08/04/10