



Carleton UNIVERSITY

Department of History Summer Course

HIST 2310A:

Canadian Environmental History to 1920

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30-2:30, May-June 2015

Instructor Joanna Dean



Map of Eastern End of Rideau Canal, 1830, Watercolour, Archives of Canada

Content: This course focuses on the local landscape to understand how humans have lived in this place since earliest times to the 1920's. We will consider how the last ice age shaped the land; indigenous ways of knowing and working with the natural world; trade routes along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers; the devastating impact of European microbes, plants, animals, and settlers; the engineering of the Rideau Canal; scientific and squatter agriculture; and plans for 20th century suburbs.

Format: The class will be run as a seminar with field trips to archeological digs, the Central Experimental Farm, the Arboretum, the Rideau Canal and hidden corners of the campus landscape. Through short writing assignments students will develop their writing skills, learn to identify (and then critique) the central argument in a scholarly article, and how to read visual sources, maps, material artefacts and the physical landscape.

For more information please contact the Department of History at (613) 520-2600 or by email at history@carleton.ca