

ANTH313

Anthropology of the Environment

Fall 2017

LEC 1 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 –10:50 KNB 126 (Kinesiology Block B)

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	Wednesday 14:30–15:30		
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Overview of Course

This course explores the relationship between human societies and their environments. As concern about environmental degradation, global change, and loss of biodiversity increases, it becomes more important to understand human–environment relationships. This course asks: How have humans been getting along with nature?; What does it mean to “protect” nature?; For what and for whom do we protect wildlife and plants?; Can we sustainably utilize natural resources, renewable and non-renewable?; and Is “sustainable development” just a cliché? Drawing from the viewpoint that “culture” mediates human relationships with nature, we will examine these environmental issues as they pertain to quality of life. How does culture shape our ideas and perspective about nature? What role does culture play in building our relationship to the environment and framing our actions towards the environment? Rather than simply examining the biophysical causes and manifestations of particular ecological processes, the course encourages students to think “anthropologically” about the role of science, conservation and “resource” use. Using an array of materials, we will question the nature of “nature”; relate economic development and social planning to local realities; explore the consequences of resource management; examine coping and adaptive processes to the changing environments; and review environmental thoughts and anthropological theories that help make sense of these topics. We will also explore how ethnographic knowledge contributes to a critical understanding of environmental conflicts.

Goals

By the end of this course, students will be able to think critically about environmental issues, and drawing from cross-cultural case studies, they will understand the diverse ways that humans have understood, constructed and responded to their environment.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Apply key concepts learned in class to a range of relevant cases and historical/geo- political contexts.
2. Identify the role of foundational theory and thoughts in contemporary policies on the environment.
3. Develop critical arguments about diverse human relationships to the environment and the means for understanding them.

Course Format

This course will follow a lecture format accompanied by additional readings, films, and online materials. Students are expected to read the course readings indicated for each date prior to class. Powerpoint slides of the lectures in PDF format will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L) after the lecture. Note that all the slides will not be posted on D2L. The purpose of posting slides is to assist students with note-taking during the lecture.

Disclaimer: Studying only posted slides gives no guarantee of a good grade.

Course Materials

1. Required textbook

Haenn, Nora, Richard R. Wilk, and Allison Harnish

2016. *The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living*, 2nd edition. New York: New York University Press.

2. Additional readings

Additional readings will be made available through D2L

Lecture Schedule

This course consists of three parts.

Part 1. Cultural ecology (building up towards Midterm exam 1)

Part 2. Environmental thought and movement (Midterm 2)

Part 3. Political ecology (Final exam; NB Final is cumulative)

Each part further consists of several modules. For more detail, refer to D2L. Please regularly check D2L for updates to the schedule.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grades will be based upon marks on one writing assignment, two mid-term exams, and a (Registrar-scheduled) final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the lectures, the course text and readings, the films. The two midterm exams are multiple choice format, while the final exam includes short-answer questions in addition to multiple choice.

Written assignment	15 %	Due: October 18 (Wed.) See below.
Midterm exam #1	25 %	October 6 (Fri.) Theme: Cultural ecology (Part 1 as referred to in "Lecture Schedule" above)
Midterm exam #2	25%	November 8 (Wed.) Theme: Environmental thoughts and movement
Final exam	35 %	TBA Go to the link below. https://ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/final-exam-schedule Exam scope: Much emphasis will be placed on Political ecology, however, the final still includes Parts 1 and 2

Written assignment

This assignment is twofold.

1. Summarize the following article (maximum 400 words).

Cronon, William

1996 The Trouble with Wilderness; Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature. In *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the human place in nature*. William Cronon, ed. Pp. 69-90. New York: N.W. Norton. Available at:

http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/Trouble_with_Wilderness_Main.html

2. After reading the above article, describe your memorable landscape from your childhood, adolescence, or recent experience, within 600 words. Elaborate on how you relate it to yourself, why it stands out over other landscapes you have visited, how that landscape makes you think of your relationship to the environment, or how the experience with that landscape shaped your thoughts on the environment. In this section, take Cronon's argument into consideration. If you do not have a memorable landscape but are still interested in the human-environment relationship, explain why. In total, your paper should stay within 1,000 words.

Students must submit the assignment in a one-page hard copy (single-spaced, double-sided). Electronic copies will NOT be accepted. Students must submit assignments in class, at the beginning of the lecture on the day they are due. Late submission will NOT be accepted. Do NOT submit assignments in the department dropbox or my mailbox. Assignments submitted in the dropbox or my mailbox will automatically receive marks reduced by 25%.

Grading scheme

A+	100–94.9%	A	94.8–89.9%	A-	89.8–84.9%
B+	84.8–79.9%	B	79.8–74.9%	B-	74.8–70.9%
C+	70.8–66.9%	C	66.8–62.9%	C-	62.8–58.9%
D+	58.8–54.9%	D	54.8–49.9%	F	49.8% and below

Deferred exams will NOT be offered except for documented medical or family emergencies. Non-academic activities, such as vacation plans and heavy workload are not valid reasons for rewrites. Course appeals (grades, missed exams) must be made in writing. Students unable to write an exam must inform the instructor or personnel in the main office of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology (403.220.6516) about their situation if possible beforehand. A notification after the missed exam will require proper documentation (e.g. signed Physician's Statement). A deferred or early exam may be different in content and/or format from the original exam.

Email Policy

Please include the word "ANTH313" in the title of email messages. I appreciate concise, appropriate email messages. I will attempt to respond to emails in a timely fashion, that is, within two working days. The volume of messages I receive may mean responding beyond this period. Please don't send an email about an exam an hour before and expect a response. Also, general questions regarding the course outline, the format of exams and quizzes, and so forth can be addressed in the forum of D2L, so students can share FAQs.

Conduct in the Classroom

All cellphones must be turned off during class-time. If you expect to receive a call, sit by a door and leave the room in a non-disruptive manner prior to answering. I encourage note-taking by hand. I will allow the use of computers for note-taking as long as the use of computers does not interfere with the academic environment generated through lecture and class discussion. I will ask students to leave the classroom if their use of computers is a distraction to others, and I will not allow those students to use computers again in class. Please note, not only is this distracting to you, most importantly it is distracting to the students around you (who see everything you are doing) and your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre), contact their office at 403.220.8237. Students who have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Intellectual Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offences that will be dealt with seriously in this course and by this university. Students must not submit the words or ideas of another person as their own for any assignment in this course. Students are reminded to review the Arts Faculty's policies on Intellectual Honesty and Plagiarism. See <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/plagiarismcheating>.

Emergency Evacuation

In the event that we need to evacuate the classroom due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the North Courtyard of MacEwan Student Centre. FIY: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points/assembly-points>.