

ANTH 399.1
Special Topics in Anthropology (Environment and Culture)

Winter 2014

LEC 1 TR 15:30 – 16:45

Location: ICT 121

Instructor: Naotaka Hayashi, PhD
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Office Hours: F 10-12 or by appointment

TA: Robert Patalano
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Office Hours: T, R 14:00 – 15:00

Overview of Course

This course explores the relationship between human societies and their environment. It asks: How does culture shape our ideas about nature, constructing our environment and framing our actions towards it? Rather than simply examining the biophysical causes and manifestations of particular environmental concerns, students will be encouraged to think “anthropologically” about the role of science, conservation and “resource” use in mediating human relationships with the Earth. Material will question the nature of “nature”; relate large-scale economic development and social planning to local realities; explore the goals and unintended impacts of conservation; and review foundations of anthropological theory that help make sense of these. We will also explore contributions that ethnographic knowledge makes to critical understanding of environmental conflicts.

Course Objective

By the end of this course students will have a solid grounding in environmental anthropology and exposure to cross-cultural case studies that explore the diverse ways in which humans have understood, constructed and responded to their environment. 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 in contemporary policies on the environment.
3. Develop critical arguments about diverse human relationships to the environment and means for understanding these.

Course Format

This course will follow an interactive lecture-discussion style format accompanied by films, online materials, and break-out groups. Students are expected to do the course readings indicated for each date prior to class and to participate in discussions based on the material.

Required Texts

Students are expected to read assigned texts in preparation for each class.

1. Haenn, N and R.R Wilk. (2006) The Environment in Anthropology. A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living. New York University Press.
2. Additional reading/viewing material will be posted on Blackboard

Course Requirements Date Percent of Grade

Writing assignment	20 %
Midterm exam	30 %
Final cumulative exam registrar's scheduled final exam	50 %

Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination YES

Test re-writes will not be offered except for documented medical and family emergencies. Vacation plans, heavy workload, etc. will not be considered. Course appeals (grades, missed exams) have to be made in writing.

Grading

Final grades are based on the following:

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

Contacting Instructor

My office hours are shown above. Students are welcome to forward their questions and comments to the instructor or TA's email indicated at the top of this document. Please allow 36 hours for response and 48 hours over weekends. Long emails may take longer to respond to. Please send only one email at a time. Also, questions regarding exam/assignment marks can only be addressed during office hours. You do not need to let me know if you are not attending class, but you are encouraged to ensure that a peer will share their notes with you.

Conduct in the Classroom

All cellphones are expected to be turned off during class-time. If you expect to receive a call, sit by a door and leave the room in an undistruptive manner prior to answering. The instructor believes that note-taking during class is very important. Note-taking by hand is encouraged. Should you find it convenient to take notes by laptops, their use is allowed as long as computers do not interfere with the academic environment generated through lecture and class discussion. Anyone who distracts the class will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to use a laptop again in the 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), please 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 University's and the Department of Anthropology's policies on Intellectual Honesty and Plagiarism.

<http://anth.ucalgary.ca/intellectual-honesty-guidelines> and
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Emergency Evacuation

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Social Sciences Food Court .

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.