

ANTH 313
Anthropology of the Environment
Fall 2015
LEC 1 Tuesday and Thursday 14:00 – 15:15
Education Classroom Block (EDC) 388

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Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
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Overview of Course

This course explores the relationship between human societies and their environments. As concern about the environmental degradation, global change, and loss of biodiversity increased, it is becoming more important to understand human–environment relations. This course asks: 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, or 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 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 large-scale economic development and social planning to local realities; explore the goals and unintended impacts of resource management; examine coping and adaptive process to changing environment; 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 and Objectives

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. 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 means for understanding these.

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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 for back-up.

Required Readings

1. Haenn, N and R.R. Wilk
2006. *The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living*.
New York: New York University Press.
2. Additional reading/viewing material will be posted on D2L

Lecture Schedule

Please regularly check D2L for updates to the schedule.

Course Requirements, Date, and Percent of Grade

The final grades will be based upon marks on five mini assignments, two mid-term exams, and a (non-Registrar-scheduled) final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the lecture, course text and readings, and the films. Exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay type questions. The final exam covers reading materials after the first midterm (Oct. 15 – Dec. 3).

Mini assignments (short essays)	20 %	See below
Writing assignment (Policy brief)	20 %	Due: November 19 (Thur.)
Midterm exam #1	25 %	October 13 (Tues.)
Midterm exam #2	25 %	November 24 (Tues.)
Final exam	10 %	December 8 (Tues.)

Mini assignments There will be five mini assignments in total. Each assignments will be worth 4 % of your final grade. Assignments involve 1) summarizing an assigned article or theme and 2) adding your thoughts to the summary. Assignments should be within 500 words in length. As for the specific direction for each assignment, see D2L. Assigned articles (themes) and due dates are:

1. The urbanite image of "wilderness"	Cronon (1996)	September 17 (Thur.)
2. Environmental groups and Indigenous people	Brosius (Chp. 34)	October 1 (Thur.)
3. Indigenous whaling	Anderson (Chp. 35) + Lyng (1998)	October 20 (Tues.)
4. Resource development & consultation	Gibson et al. (1998)	November 26 (Thurs)
5. Mass consumption	Wilk (Chp. 38)	December 3 (Thurs.)

Students must submit hard copies of assignments (single-spaced, one page, single 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 reduced marks by 25%.

Policy brief assignment Based on the concept of political ecology, students will create a policy brief concerning an environmental issue. Students can work with a theme of their own choice, or find themes in the the textbook and assigned readings.

FYI: "How to Write a Policy Brief"

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Policy-Brief>

Students can use the American Psychological Association (APA) style, the Chicago Manual (CM) of style, or the American Anthropological Association (AAA) style. The APA and CM citation style guidelines can be found at:

<http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/c.php?g=255153&p=1704715>

The manual of the AAA style can be available at:

<http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm> .

Assignments should be handed in hard copy at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. Electronic copies will **NOT** be accepted. 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 reduced marks 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

Test re-writes will **NOT** be offered except for documented medical and 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 beforehand, not afterwards. A notification after the missed exam will **NOT** be accepted. A proper documentation must be provided within four (4) business days of the exam (for instance, if the exam takes place on Tuesday, the student needs to provide by Monday of the following week. Make-up/deferred exam will occur within a week after the 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 atrium in the Scurfield Hall. FYI:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points/assembly-points> .

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.

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.