

## **Environmental Anthropology**

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY, ANTHROPOLOGY 314-001

Fall 2009, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:40-11:30, ILC 403

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### **Course Summary**

Environmental anthropology is the study of human interactions with the physical environment. It can be the basis for understanding how past and present human populations contribute and respond to local and global environmental change. A diverse set of topics such as human adaptability, paleoecology, landscape ecology, primate ecology, indigenous-national relationships, conservation, sustainability, biodiversity, and extinction are included within the environmental approach in anthropology.

Anthropology developed in the 1800s as an attempt to apply scientific approaches to examine behavioral and biological patterns in humans. Anthropology seeks to integrate the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to understand present and past human behavior and biology. In this course we will examine the role three subdisciplines within anthropology (ethnography/ethnology, biological anthropology, and archaeology) contribute to the study of human ecology, or human relationships and interactions with the environment. This course will emphasize ecological and evolutionary approaches to evaluating human-environment interactions.

This course examines the evidence of links between environments and people from the perspective of change at a variety of human time-scales. The course is divided into three sections. First, historical themes and fundamental concepts in ecology as related to environmental anthropology are reviewed. Then, different types of human adaptations (from hunting and gathering to agriculture and urbanism) are examined. Additionally, a biogeographic approach is used to focus on specific habitats and biomes used by people in the present and the past in small-scale and large-scale societies.

For each section there are a series of lectures or in-class activities, and required readings. There are three exams covering the information from the in-class learning and required readings, as well as 9 short (2-page) papers and a portfolio. This course uses a combination of lectures, visual aids (e.g. Powerpoint presentations), readings, short research papers (case studies) and computer learning (e.g. BLACKBOARD). This course is designed to provide experience in taking notes and the use of library and internet resources in the preparation of papers.

### **Objectives of the Course**

This course is a review of ways humans have been influenced by the environment as well as how humans have had or do have an impact on the environment. The following is a list of primary goals for this class.

1) Provide an understanding of major ecological concepts, goals, and methods that have been applied in environmental anthropology. Apply anthropological perspectives on human evolution and adaptation to theories of human-habitat interaction from biological and cultural ecology.

2) Develop an appreciation for the linkages between geographic-environmental contexts and biotic populations, especially ecological relationships between human groups and biotic communities and landscapes at different times and in a variety of scales (local-to-global, small-to-large). Examine relationships between major adaptive patterns (hunter-gathers, food production-agriculture, industrialism-urbanism)

4) Examine the dynamic relationships between human groups, variations in physical environments and biotic habitats, and dimensions of space and time; develop an ability to organize ecological and adaptive contexts in time and space.

5) Utilize a biogeographic/habitat approach to human-environmental interactions (e.g. arctic/subarctic, high altitudes, deserts, grasslands, humid tropics, temperate forests).

6) Integrate adaptations and habitats with environmentally-related issues such as sustainability, biodiversity, water resources, agricultural intensification, extinctions, restoration and conservation, relationships between indigenous peoples and national governments.

7) Gain experience in developing communication and critical thinking skills as well as in the use of research resources.

### **Required Textbooks**

*Human Adaptability: An Introduction to Ecological Anthropology*, Third Edition, E.F. Moran, 2008, Westview Press, Boulder, CO. New York.

*Human Impact on Ancient Environments*, C.L. Redman, 1999, The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ.

*Introduction to Cultural Ecology*. Second Edition. M.Q. Sutton and E.N. Anderson, 2010, Altamira Press, Lanham, MD.

### **Methods of Evaluation**

You are expected to participate with regular class attendance and by keeping current on the required readings. There will be three exams based on in-class activities and the readings. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade. The exams will be taken at the on-line testing center (Education 418; <http://itc.boisestate.edu/testinglab/default.asp>). There will be no make-up exams. You are responsible for all required readings, information presented in class, and information available on the class BLACKBOARD site. Exams are based on information provided in the readings, in class, and on the BLACKBOARD site.

Besides the three exams, you will be required to write 9 short papers (2-pages each) and create a portfolio. These are each worth 4% of your final grade. No credit will be given for late papers. Besides gaining a thorough knowledge of environmental anthropology, this course is designed to provide experience in taking notes and the preparation of short papers.

<b>Values of Exams and Papers</b>	
<b>10 papers/portfolio X 4%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>3 exams X 20%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Total possible value</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading

Grades for the course will be based on your total accumulated score from the papers and exams. The following grading scale will be used as the basis for determining your final grade.

<b>Grades Based on Total Percentage Earned</b>	
<b>100-96%</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>96-90%</b>	<b>A-</b>
<b>89-88%</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>87-82%</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>81-80%</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>79-78%</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>77-72%</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>71-70%</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>69-68%</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>67-62%</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>61-60%</b>	<b>D-</b>
<b>Below 60%</b>	<b>F</b>

**This is the required structure for your portfolio:**

1. Table of Contents;
2. Papers;
3. Comparisons: Ethno/Bio/Arch;
4. Issues (2 pages maximum);
5. Summary and Conclusions (1 page);
6. References.

<b>Portfolio: Environmental Anthropology Comparisons, Issues, Overview</b>			
	*Ethnographic- Ethnology (Behavioral)	*Biological (Physical Anthropology)	*Archaeological (Temporal)
1. Hunting- Gathering			
2. Food Production			
3. Horticulture- Pastoralism			
4. Intensive Agriculture- Urbanism			
5. Arctic-Subarctic			
6. Mountains			
7. Arid (Deserts)			
8. Grasslands			
9. Forest			
* must have 3 papers that are case studies from each category			

## Checklist for Short Papers-Case Studies in Environmental Anthropology

1. **Title Page.**
  - a. Title (topic of paper) (do not use case studies or exact examples from required readings).
  - b. Author (your name) (no name, no credit!).
  - c. Class.
  - d. Date.
2. **Text:** Must be Only 2 Pages (Double-spaced, 11 pt).
  - a. Pages do not include maps, charts, figures, or title page
  - b. 2 pages of text (does not include title page or bibliography/references cited)
  - c. Follow general format of case studies in Anderson and Sutton:
    - 1) 2 sentence overview, indicate sub-discipline category;
    - 2) Natural environmental context;
    - 3) Type of socio-political organization;
    - 4) Economics (e.g. behavioral adaptations, subsistence type, resources used, seasonality);
    - 5) Environmental manipulation/resource management or human>environment vs. environment>human;
    - 6) Discussion, summary.
  - d. Provide details based on published papers and journal articles; you can use web sites for references but you need prior approval from instructor.
  - e. Make sure that it is possible for someone reviewing your paper to know where you obtained all the information. Cite your sources within your text.
3. **Bibliography** (Publications or References Cited).
  - a. Must include name of author, date of publication, title of article, journal or book published in, editor if applicable, publisher, place of publication.
  - b. Must have at least 2 papers/references, not including any citations from the required or any optional texts (the idea is that you find and use other resources).
  - c. Your paper should demonstrate the use of research technologies and methods—properly cite references, include appropriate books and peer-reviewed journals.
  - d. Web pages can be cited but are not included in the 2 reference minimum.
  - e. Make sure that it is possible for someone reviewing your paper to know where you obtained all the information. CITE REFERENCES WITHIN TEXT.
4. **Papers will be partially evaluated based on the use of proper grammar, sentence structure, and spelling.**
5. **Your paper should:**
  - a. Demonstrate knowledge of current findings and conclusions based on summaries of the background literature review of your topic;
  - b. Clearly communicate issues and hypotheses and provide information on alternative explanations and hypotheses (effective written communication and critical thinking);
  - c. Explicitly apply theory, concepts, or methods and relate these to real-world issues in human environmental anthropology.
6. **No credit for papers handed in after the final deadline.**

<b>Environmental Anthropology Schedule: Fall 2009 at a Glance</b>		
	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Things to do (readings, exams, papers)</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction History and Theory</b>	Sutton and Anderson Chapter 1, pages 1-33 Moran, Chapter 2, pages 27-59 Redman, Chapters 1 and 2, pages 3-34
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Fundamentals, Ecosystems, Concepts</b>	Sutton and Anderson, Chapter 2, pages 35-57 Moran, Chapter 1, pages and Chapter 3, pages 61-77 Redman, Chapter 3, pages 35-51
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Biological Ecology Cultural Ecology</b>	Sutton and Anderson, Chapters 3 and 4, pages 59-132 Moran, Chapter 3, pages 77-89
<b>Week 4</b>		<b>First Exam (September 14-17)</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Hunting and Gathering, Connections with Animals</b>	Sutton and Anderson, Chapter 5, pages 133-175 Redman, Chapter 4, pages 53-80 <b>Paper 1 Due September 25th</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Origins of Food Production; Agrarian Systems</b>	Sutton and Anderson, Chapter 6, pages 177-194 Redman, Chapter 5, pages 81-126 <b>Paper 2 Due October 2nd</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Horticulture and Pastoralism</b>	Sutton and Anderson, Chapters 7 and 8, pages 195-266 <b>Paper 3 Due October 9th</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Intensive Agriculture, Urbanism, Ecology and Sustainability</b>	Sutton and Anderson, Chapter 9, pages-267-304 Redman, Chapter 6, pages 127-158 Moran, Chapter 10, pages 307-326 <b>Paper 4 Due October 16th</b>
<b>Week 9</b>		<b>Second Exam (October 19-21)</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Arctic Tundra and Subarctic Taiga</b>	Moran, Chapter 5, pages 123-151 Blackboard paper <b>Paper 5 Due October 30th</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Mountain Environments</b>	Moran, Chapter 6, pages 157-183 <b>Paper 6 Due November 6th</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Arid Environments</b>	Moran, Chapter 7, pages 189-222 <b>Paper 7 November 13th a</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Grassland-Steppe Environments</b>	Moran, Chapter 8, pages 227-258 <b>Paper 8 Due November 20th</b>
<b>Week 14</b>		Thanksgiving Break
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Forests: Tropical and Temperate</b>	Moran, Chapter 9, pages 263-299 <b>Paper 9 Due December 4th</b>
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Issues</b>	Redman, Chapters 7 and Chapter 8, pages 159-219 Sutton and Anderson, Chapter 10, pages 305-321 <b>Paper 10 = Summary Paper/Portfolio Due December 11</b>
<b>Week 17</b>		<b>Third Exam</b>

## Environmental Anthropology: Schedule for Fall 2009

Environmental Anthropology: Schedule for Fall 2009			
Week 1	Aug. 24: Introduction.	Aug. 26: History and Theory	Aug. 28: History and Theory
Week 2	Aug. 31: Fundamentals	Sept. 2: Ecosystems	Sept. 4: Concepts
Week 3	Sept. 7: NO CLASS	Sept. 9: Biological Ecology	Sept. 11: Cultural Ecology
Week 4	Sept. 14: <b>Exam 1</b>	Sept 16: <b>Exam 1</b>	Sept 18: Review/Overview
Week 5	Sept. 21: Hunting and Gathering	Sept. 23: Connections with Animals	Sept. 25: Paper 1 due at beginning of class
Week 6	Sept. 28: Origin of Food Production	Sept. 30: Agrarian Systems	Oct. 2: Paper 2 due at beginning of class
Week 7	Oct. 5: Horticulture	Oct. 7: Pastoralism	Oct. 9: Paper 3 due at beginning of class
Week 8	Oct. 12: Intensive Agriculture	Oct. 14: Urbanism	Oct. 16: Paper 4 due at beginning of class
Week 9	Oct. 19: <b>Exam 2</b>	Oct. 21: <b>Exam 2</b>	Oct. 23:
Week 10	Oct. 26: Arctic Tundra	Oct. 28: Taiga	Oct. 30: Paper 5 due at beginning of class
Week 11	Nov. 2: Mountains	Nov. 4: Mountains	Nov. 6: Paper 6 due at beginning of class
Week 12	Nov. 9: Arid Environments	Nov. 11: Arid Environments	Nov. 13: Paper 7 due at beginning of class
Week 13	Nov. 16: Grasslands	Nov. 18: Steppe	Nov. 20: Paper 8 due at beginning of class
Week 14	Nov. 23: Thanksgiving	Nov. 25: <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Nov. 27: <i>Thanksgiving</i>
Week 15	Nov. 30: Forests	Dec. 2: Forests	Dec. 4: Paper 9 due at beginning of class
Week 16	Dec. 7: Issues	Dec. 9: Issues	Dec. 11: Paper 10 due at beginning of class
Week 17	Dec. 14-17: <b>Final Exam</b>		