FALL 2017
HISTORICAL ECOLOGY
ANG 6086
Section 2371

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo
Lecture sessions: Thursday, 4:05-7:05 PM
Location: LIT 235
Office: TUR: B131
Phone: 352-22947590
Office hours: By appointment.
Email: caycedo@ufl.edu

DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this course is to create a solid foundation in the study of the theories and methods in historical ecology today. This will be accomplished by evaluating the new trends that have driven historical ecology in the last ten years. This new approach demands an interdisciplinary view. The first part of the class will focus on the different epistemological approaches. We will look at the kinds of questions asked and the methodologies employed to answer them. The last part of the course will place emphasis on case studies where historical ecology has been employed to understand long-term regional dynamics of the relationship between humans and the environment. We will examine the theoretical and methodological relationship of historical ecology to biology, geography, and geology as well as to history. We will look at why historical ecology is a powerful approach to evaluating critical theories that range from biology to history. We will look at how the theories are evaluated and what factors favor their success or abandonment.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Books

Moore, Jason W. 2016. Anthropocene or Capitolocene? PM Press

Chapters from edited books:


There will be other assigned readings. Most of these can be downloaded as PDF files from the library service. Sometimes you will have to copy them from the library journals at the main library.

**EVALUATION:**
Evaluation will be based on the accumulation of points up to 100 (100 points =100 %).

**Final research paper (30 %), presentation of the final research paper (10%), short presentations in class (20%) and class participation (40 %).**

**REMEMBER IT IS A RESEARCH PAPER, NOT A REVIEW PAPER.** The paper should be 15 to 20 pages in length, double-spaced including bibliography. For the paper you should choose a region of the planet where you can study the impact of human activity on the environment as well as the impact of the environment on the population. The paper should follow the format guidelines of the journal American Anthropologist.

There is a large amount of literature to be covered in this class and each student must be able to discuss each of the articles. You are responsible for all of the readings. It always helps to write a review on each article or chapter that you read, and have notes on the topics that are relevant for the discussion, as well as questions on the aspects that you do not understand.

**Disclaimer:** Some adjustments may be made in the schedule and course requirements during the semester. All changes will be announced.

**ATTENDANCE** is required.

**GRADE SYSTEM:**
**Grading Scale** Grades will be awarded according to the following scale in effect by the university:

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<th>Grade</th>
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A complete listing of university policy pertaining to grades may be found at http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/files/handbook.pdf

**Classes and readings**

**Week 1, August 24:** General presentation: What is historical ecology.

**Week 2, August 31:** Epistemology: Concepts and Research Program.


**Week 3, September 7: Epistemology: Concepts and Research Program.**


**Week 4, September 14: Historical ecology and climate change.**


**Week 5, September 21: Rapid climatic change and societies.**

**Week 6, September 28: Anthropogenic landscapes and history.**

**Week 7, October 5: Historical Ecology and Environments.**

**Week 8, October 12: Landesque Capital.**

**Week 9, October 19: The Anthropocene or Capitalocene**
Zalasiewicz, Jan, Mark Williams, et al. 2008 Are we now living in the Anthropocene? GSA Today: v. 18, no. 2


Moore, Jason W. 2016. Anthropocene or Capitolocene? PM Press (selected chapters)

**Week 10, October 26: The Anthropocene and the Amazon and Mayalandia**


**Week 11, November 2: Historical Ecology and Maritime Ecosystems**


**Week 12, November 9: Historical Ecology and Maritime Ecosystems**


**Paper presentation**

**Week 13, November 16: Social life of forest and historical ecologies.**


**Paper presentations.**

**Week 14, November 23: Holiday, thanksgiving.**

**Week 15, December 7: reading days.**