Fall 2014  
HISTORICAL ECOLOGY  
ANG 6086  
Section 1B48

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo  
Lecture sessions: Thursday 9:35-12:35  
Location: Room CBD 0224  
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:


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://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

**Classes and readings**

**Week 1, August 28:** General presentation. What is historical ecology.

**Week 2, September 4:** Epistemology: Concepts and Research Program


Week 3 September 11, Epistemology: Concepts and Research Program


Week 4, September 18: Historical Ecology Today


Week 5, September 25: Anthropogenic landscapes and history


Week 6, October 2: Environmental Historical and History


**Week 7, October 9: Climate change**


**Preparation of final paper proposal.**

**Week 8, October 16: Historical ecology and climate change**


**Week 9, October 30: Historical Ecology and Environments**


**Week 10, November 6: Historical Ecology and Maritime Ecosystems**


**Week 11, November 13: Cases in historical ecology**


Week 12, November 20: Sustainability or Collapse: the new frontier in historical ecology
Costanza, Robert, Lisa J. Graumlich, and Will Steffen. 2007. Sustainability or Collapse? An Integrated History and Future of People on Earth. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Please read chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 22

Week 13, November 27: Holiday, thanksgiving.

Week 14, December 4: Case examples of Historical Ecology. Paper presentation.
Final paper due.

Week 15, December 11: reading days

Optional Readings

Mann, Charles C. (2002) 1491: before it became the New World, the Western Hemisphere was vastly more populous and sophisticated than has been thought ... the Amazon rain forest may be largely a human artifact. The Atlantic Monthly March 2002, 41-6, 48-53.


