

# **ANT 4403**

## **Environment and Culture**

### **Fall 2012**

Section 1C28  
Lecture: Tuesdays 4<sup>th</sup> periods  
            Thursdays 4-5<sup>th</sup> period  
Turlington 2333

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                  6<sup>th</sup> period & by appt.

## **Introduction**

The study of ecological anthropology is at its most basic level the examination of the relationship between humans and the natural environments in which they live. Although the nature of how anthropologists approach this relationship have changed and varied considerably over the past century, ecological anthropology is best characterized as a materialist enterprise. Studies of ecology and anthropology have at their core an implicit assumption that human societies are the products of adaptation to specific environmental conditions. Additionally, the human capacity for culture is most often seen as a primary mechanism for achievement of successful adaptation. Despite this general framework, however, contemporary approaches to ecological anthropology range from the very materialist application of evolutionary theory to approaches like historical ecology that incorporate traditional humanistic approaches to the study of human-environment relations. The first part of this course will focus on basic concepts and the origins of ecological anthropology, focusing on both method and theory. The second part of the course will examine the development of different approaches to the study of human-environment interactions over time. Significant attention will be paid to contemporary issues, among them population growth, urbanization, globalization, and climate change.

## **Textbooks and Reading Requirements**

There are four textbooks for this course:

- Berkes, Fikret. 2008. *Sacred ecology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. New York: Routledge.
- Crate, Susan A., & Mark Nuttall (eds). 2009. *Anthropology and climate change: From encounters to actions*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.
- Townsend, Patricia. 2008. *Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies*. Waveland Press.
- Crumley, Carole, ed. 2001. *New Directions in Anthropology and the Environment*. Rowman and Littlefield.

All are required. Berkes looks at ecology from the point of view of nonwesterners, relying primarily on Cree concepts of ecology and environment. Crate and Nuttall present material on perhaps the most important issue in the study of human-environment relationships. Townsend and Crumley are more generalist overviews of approaches and debates within the field. Using earlier editions of any of these texts is acceptable.

## Exams and Grading

**Exams (200 pts).** There are two exams for this course – a mid-term and a final. Both exams will be a combination of fill-in-the-blanks, short answers and longer essay questions. Typically, I will allow some choice on the exams. Exams will be taken in class via the tried-and-true blue book method. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

**Research Poster (175 Points).** You will be required to present a research project on a topic of your choice that relates to medical anthropology; in lieu of the typical research paper, you will present a poster detailing the results of your research during the last week of classes. Development of the research project will occur throughout the semester. You are required to submit a poster proposal outlining the topic of your research project by **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**; this proposal should describe the topic, including why the topic is important, and should identify some of the key questions or issues your project will explore (25 pts). A 250-300 word proposal abstract (25 pts.), and an annotated bibliography (25 pts.) with at least 10 carefully selected references from scholarly literature is due **Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. You must submit a draft copy (50 pts.) of your final poster – in electronic format – by **Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. The final poster (also 50 pts.) will be presented on either **November 20, 27, or 29<sup>th</sup>**. Grading rubrics for each part of the poster project will be provided.

**Class Participation (50 points)** Because of the discussion-oriented nature of the class, students will be graded on the quality of class participation. Participation is a constructive activity, which means that you must not only have interesting and useful things to contribute to the discussion but also remain sensitive to others in the classroom. Being disrespectful of other opinions or hogging the spotlight are just as bad as not saying anything. Your participation grade is worth 50 points. You should note that 50 points is more than enough to make for a whole letter grade in this class, so this is not a trivial component of the course.

Because real participation remains such an unusual component of most college classrooms, I should add here that “participation” and “discussion” are not unstructured activities. Rather, much of the discussion is guided either by discussion questions provided to accompany readings and periodic small-group, in-class discussions of particular topics.

**Late Assignment Policy:** You are required to complete all assignments by the stated due dates. Late assignments will lose the point equivalent of a letter grade for each day past the deadline. There are no make-up opportunities for missed assignments or exams, save under extreme circumstances.

As for letter grades, the numbers play out as follows:

A=395+, A-=382-394, B+=369-381, B=352-368, B-=340-351, C+=327-339, C=310-326, C-=297-309, D=255-296, E=<255

## Ground Rules

### ***Sakai***

I will be using Sakai to manage the course. This means that all important materials can be viewed online using Sakai, including a copy of the syllabus, exams, assignments and any supplemental readings or links I might think to post. While Sakai is a useful tool for managing this course, it is important to remember that this is not an online course, and I am only using Sakai as an organizational tool.

### ***Classes, Readings, & Attendance Policy***

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. Although attendance in class is not compulsory, class discussion will incorporate information not available in the assigned textbooks. Indeed, class

discussions provide material in addition to the material found in the textbook.

As for attendance, this is a university, and you are all grown-ups. I do not grade for attendance, though I should add that class attendance is highly correlated with performance on exams, and thus the final grade in the course. I'm not inclined to do any favors for students who are borderline if they have shown a half-hearted commitment to being in class. And, of course, if you are not in class you are not participating, which means you are not earning those points. Finally: University policy is that students are expected to attend all class meetings.

### ***Classroom Behavior***

I recognize that UF students are, for the most part, conscientious and hard-working, but that there are a few (or more) in every crowd. For those few, I would remind you that being in class is an indication that you are here to learn something about anthropology. I expect that cell phones will be turned off during the lecture, that you will pay attention in class, and that you will remain seated during class. Passing notes, chatting with your neighbors, reading the newspaper, doing your math homework, playing World of Warcraft, surfing Facebook, getting up to get a drink of water, running to the potty, or leaving early are distracting to and disrespectful of everyone in the class. If you do need to leave early, please sit in a location where your movement will cause the least disruption. If you need to chat with your neighbor, please wait until after class. And if you can't stay away from checking email, logging onto Facebook or playing an online game for an entire class period, you really need to seek professional help. If Facebook becomes a distraction, I will ban computers from the classroom.

**Your grade for this course is your responsibility.** If you attend class regularly, read the assigned material carefully, and participate in our discussions, then you will likely do well. You will only get out of this class what you put into it.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else's published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same work for different courses) will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University's Honor Code](#).

### ***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities***

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **Please make any requests by the second week of class.**

### ***UF Counseling Services***

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. [Sexual Assault Recovery Services \(SARS\)](#), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

## Course Outline

The following course outline is approximate. We may spend more or less time on specific topics as class interest dictates. Exams will occur as scheduled and are not subject to change.

<b>Week and Dates</b>	<b>Topic and Reading Assignment</b>
Aug 28 - Sept 18	<i>History, Theory, and Method in Environmental Anthropology</i> Readings: Crumley 1-5, Townsend 1-6,
Sept 20 - Oct 18	<i>Perspectives From the Other Side(s)</i> Readings: Crumley 6-9, Berkes (all)
Oct 23 - Nov13	<i>Local and Global: Climate Change and other Hazards</i> Readings: Crate & Nuttall (all), Crumley 10-13, Townsend 7-13
Nov 20 - Dec 4	<i>Anthropology and the Environment Poster Sessions</i>

### **Due Dates:**

<i>Sept 27</i>	<i>Poster Proposals Due</i>
<i>Oct 11</i>	<i>First Exam</i>
<i>Oct 25</i>	<i>Poster Abstracts and References Due</i>
<i>Nov 8</i>	<i>Poster Drafts Due</i>
<i>November 29</i>	<i>Second Exam</i>