

Syllabus

ANT 4403

**Exam group 16A
(12/16-7:30AM)**

**ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL BEHAVIOR
(or Ecological Anthropologies)**

FALL 2006

**5th Period
Turlington 2333**

**Instructor: Anthony Oliver-Smith
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Environment and Cultural Behavior (ANT 4403) is designed to acquaint the student with the development of ecological perspectives in anthropology as well as the variety of environments and the adaptations that human beings have developed to survive in them. Nature or, as it is often referred to, the environment, is of necessity the focus of both intense material and cultural interaction. The course will explore the various modes of analysis and interpretation that have been adopted in anthropology to understand human-environment relations. The first part of the course will follow the historical development of ecological interest in anthropology from its emergence to its present multifaceted expressions. The second part of the course will highlight a number of important themes that have emerged in the last quarter of the 20th century including such problematic issues as economic valuation of the natural environment, development and sustainability, increasing environmental risks, conservation policies and environmental justice movements. The intersections of anthropology with other social science and natural science disciplines in the analysis of the human-environment relationship will also be explored.

Texts: The following texts will be available at Goering's Bookstore:
Crumley-New Directions in Anthropology and Environment
Sutton & Anderson-Introduction to Cultural Ecology (S&A)
Checker-Polluted Promises

A volume of collected readings will be available through Orange and Blue Textbooks (309 NW 13th St). These readings are starred (*) in the list of assignments.

Assignments and grading: Grades for the course will be based on a midterm hour exam (20%), a 15+page term paper (40%) and a final two hour exam (40%). The topic of the paper will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. **The paper will be due on November 21, 2004.**

Course Outline	Topic	Readings
Week 1 8/23-25	Introduction Nature and Culture in the West	Crumley 1 White*
Week 2 8/29-9/2	Anthropology and the Environment; Environmental Determinism Possibilism	Crumley 5 S&A 1-2 Checker 1
Week 3 9/5-9/9	The Emergence of Cultural Ecology	Steward* S&A 3 Checker 2
Week 4 9/12-16	Neo-Evolutionism/Neo-Functionalism	Crumley 4 Rappaport* S&A 4-5
Week 5 9/19-23	Culture, Technology, Population and Nature	Catton* Holling* Manning* Thomas*
Week 6 9/26-9/30	Neo-Marxist Approaches Cultural Materialism	Harris* Godelier*

	Structural Marxism	Diener, Nonini & Robkin* S&A 6
Week 7 10/3-7	Ethnomethodologies Indigenous Models, Knowledge and Rights	Crumley 2,3,9 S&A 7 Casagrande* Goodland
Week 8 10/10-14	Historical Ecology	Winterhalter* Oliver-Smith* S&A 8 Crumley 10

MIDTERM EXAMINATION-FRIDAY OCTOBER 14-IN CLASS AT CLASS TIME

Week 9 10/17-21	Varieties of Political Ecology	Escobar* Schmink and Wood* Warren* S&A 9
Week 10 10/24-28	Varieties of Political Ecology (cont'd)	S&A 10 Checker 3 Crumley 6
Week 11 10/31-11/4	Economy and Ecology: Valuing Nature (Homecoming weekend)	Peet and Watts* Crumley 11, 12 Finnegan*
Week 12 11/7-11	Development and Environment: The Case of Big Dams	Scudder* McCully* Checker 4
Week 13 11/14-18	Conservation and Development: Parks and People	Wallington et al* Crumley 13 Schwartzman et al* Terborgh* Redford and Sanderson* Colchester* Chicchon* Schwartzman et al*
Week 14 11/21-25	Hazards, Risk and Vulnerability (Thanksgiving break)	Blaikie, et al* Oliver-Smith* Lovejoy & Baier* Checker 5
Week 15 11/28-12/2	Environmental Justice and Social Movements	Checker 6 Phillips* Crumley 7, 8 Rao et al*
Week 16 12/5-7	Nature and Culture Revisited	Checker 7 Peterson*