Anthropology of Sustainability

ANT 2402 (3C27)
M PERIODS 7-9 (1:55 pm, 2.5h of instruction)
MCCB G086

Instructor: Dr. Richard Stepp
Office Hours: Grinter 337 Mondays 8am-11am and by appointment
Office phone: 392-0299

Overview:
This course applies the sustainability concept to the study of human interactions with the biophysical environment across space and time. As such, it draws upon all four subfields (Cultural Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, Linguistic Anthropology). The course is concerned with human perceptions of and interactions with their biotic surroundings, and the myriad linkages between biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity. The first part of the course explores different human adaptive strategies throughout time, beginning with foraging and the rise of agriculture, followed by the industrial revolution and up to the present. The nature of small-scale societies and their approaches to sustainability is addressed, especially with regards to traditional or indigenous ecological knowledge. The modern world system is examined in both political and cultural contexts related to environmental stewardship. Cross-cultural ideas about sustainability are explored. The human ecosystem and anthropocene concepts are examined. The goal of class is to provide a broader understanding of the role of culture in sustaining the diversity of plant and animal life on earth, and the role of nature in perpetuating cultural knowledge for future generations. The course will explicitly address all four of the substantive areas of sustainability studies. These four areas are: Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.

Course Objectives and Goals:
* To develop a holistic and systems-based understanding on how humans interact with the biophysical environment
* To understand the inter-relationship between the biophysical environment and human cultures
* To recognize the consequences of human activity on ecosystems at different scales
* To understand the role of historical, economic and cultural forces in environmental stewardship
* To explore the concept of resilience in human societies and culture

Textbooks:

Anderson, E.N. 1996. *Ecologies of the Heart*. New York. Oxford University Press.

Robbins, R. 2021. *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*. New York: Prentice Hall

Course Requirements and Grading

There will be two exams in this class, each of which will count toward 25% of your semester grade. These exams will consist of short essay questions. The second of the two exams will not be cumulative.

You will be required to present an overview of your final paper project (described below). Presentations are concise, in-class summations of the scope of your project, your methods, initial discoveries, and the relevance of your work toward advancing critical concepts in the Anthropology of Sustainability. Your presentation will comprise ten percent of your overall semester grade.

A comprehensive final paper is required, ranging from 18-20 double spaced pages in length (4000-5000 words), typed 12-point font, based on an original research topic or theoretical discussion of your own choosing within the domain of anthropology of sustainability. We will discuss potential paper topics early in the semester and you will need to turn in a one-page (single spaced) summary/outline of your topic worth 5% of your final grade. *Paper topics must be approved before writing the final paper.* The paper should be carefully proofed and spell checked before they are handed in. Assignments that do not meet basic standards for correct spelling and grammar will be returned ungraded. This paper counts toward 25% of your grade.

This class involves discussion: active student participation is essential. You will be expected to have done the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them. Participation counts for 10% of your grade.

Grading Scale	
A = 93 or above	C = 73 - 76
A- = 90 - 92	C- = 70 - 72
B+ = 87 - 89	D+ = 67 - 69
B = 83 - 86	D = 63 - 66
B- =80 - 82	D- = 60 - 62
C+ = 77 - 79	E = 59 or below

Your semester grade will be based on the following percentages:

Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	25%
Final Paper:	25%
Participation:	10%
Paper Presentation:	10%
Paper Topic:	5%

******************Overview of the Course and Assigned Readings************************
Occasionally, additional readings will be sent via email before the following week's class.

Week 1: 1/9
      Overview of the course
      Introduction to anthropology and sustainability
Week 2: 1/16
      MLK Day
Week 3: 1/23
      Where you at? Culture and persistence
      Biocultural diversity and human ecosystems   Anderson: Chapter 1-4
Week 4: 1/30
      Ethnoecology garden visit   Anderson: Chapter 5-6
      Ethnobiology: the science of survival
Week 5: 2/6
      Subsistence strategies and domestication   Anderson: Chapter 7-8
      The classification of nature
Week 6: 2/13
      Climate change and indigenous knowledge   Anderson: Chapter 9-11
      Belief systems and sustainability
Week 7 2/20
      Exam One
Week 8: 2/27
      Human evolution and sustainability   Robbins: Chapters 1-4
      Surviving progress
      Paper Topic Due
Week 9: 3/6
      The Culture of capitalism   Robbins: Chapters 5-8
Week 10: 3/13
      Spring Break
Week 11: 3/20
      The Modern world system   Robbins: Chapters 9-10
Week 12: 3/27
      Globalization and biodiversity   Robbins: Chapters 11-13
      Alternative structures and systems
Week 13: 4/3
      Exam Two
Week 14: 4/10
      Student presentations
Week 15: 4/17
      Student presentations
Week 16: 4/24
      The future of sustainability
      Final Paper Due

E-mail policy
If your query can wait until the next class time then please do so. I would much rather communicate in person than by computer. I receive an enormous number of emails each day and there are only so many hours in the day!

Classroom behavior policy
Absolutely NO cell phone use and NO texting is permitted in the classroom at any time. Students using a cell phone for any reason during class-time will receive a warning. If the problem occurs again during the semester, the student will be asked to leave the class and will receive a 0% participation grade. This course consists of academic exercises involving student participation as well as breakout discussions and outside of classroom experiential learning. Thus, no video/audio recording or photography is permitted except for formal lectures. Disruptive behavior in general is not allowed. Failure to follow these policies will negatively impact your participation grade and may result in your dismissal from the course.

Computer policy
An increasing number of studies have shown that laptop computer use in class hinders learning. Even more alarming is that this effect carries over to students seated nearby. This article links to many of these studies: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/
Given these findings, I ask that you take notes with pen/pencil and paper. If you absolutely must bring a laptop, you should sit behind non-computer users so as not to disturb other students with your screen. For those choosing this option, please do not use your computer for anything other than note taking.

Attendance and make up policy
Attendance at all times is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Honesty policy
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

UF Grading Policy
https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

UF Counseling Services:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:
https://counseling.ufl.edu/, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via email at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Disabilities Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals.