

ANT4403 - Environment and Cultural Behaviour

ANT 4403

10435 Section 28B0

Tuesday, Period 4-5 (10:40 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.) Room TUR 2336

Thursday, Period 4 (10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) Room TUR 2336

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo

Office Hours: You can come to my office, and we can meet after class any Tuesday or Thursday. If that is not possible, we can arrange an appointment by email.

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Introduction

How do humans understand and shape the natural environment? How does the natural environment influence culture and society? Anthropologists have long been interested in these questions, and the theoretical perspectives for understanding human-environment interactions have been diverse and dynamic through time. This class will explore historical and current approaches for examining how humans perceive and interact with the world in which they live and how culture shapes behaviors, beliefs, and values that influence processes of environmental transformation.

Course Objectives:

- Could you assess historical and current theoretical approaches to understanding human-environment interactions?
- Examine key concepts and current challenges for human-environment interactions and change processes.
- Explore how Western and non-Western cultures vary in their understandings of the natural world and the implications for local and global environmental transformations.

- Consider consumer behavior and globalization and how consumer behavior can exacerbate or mitigate environmental degradation.
- Evaluate approaches and opportunities for moving toward a sustainable global social-ecological system.

Textbook: Haenn, Nora, & Richard R. Wilk, and Allison Harnish (eds). 2016. The environment in anthropology: A reader in ecology, culture, and sustainable living. Second edition. New York: New York University Press. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ufl/detail.action?docID=4045244> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Exams and Grading

This course has two take-home exams (each one is 20% of the total final grade). Both exams will be in essay format and have more extended essay questions.

Students are also required to write a term paper during the semester. The paper is expected to be 6000 words approximate, typed, and double-spaced. The paper should follow the format guidelines of the journal American Anthropologist. **It is on a topic of your choice** but approved ahead of time. I'll send you detailed directions and a list of suggested topics next week. Students must submit a brief proposal (4% of the grade) to facilitate their writing, outlining the paper topic and critical sources. The paper is worth 16 % of the final grade.

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 you must have interesting and valuable things to contribute to the discussion and remain sensitive to others in the classroom. Being disrespectful of other opinions or hogging the spotlight is just as bad as not saying anything. Your participation grade is worth 20 points (20% of your final grade); this is a manageable course component.

Because actual participation remains an unusual component of most college classrooms, I should add that "participation" and "discussion" are not unstructured activities. Instead, much of the discussion is guided by instructor questions about the readings and in-class discussions of particular topics.

In summary, the grade breakdown for the course looks like the following:

First take-home exam	20 points
Second take-home exam	20

Proposal term paper	4
Term Paper 6000 words approx.	16
Participation in class	20
Attendance	20
Total	100

Letter grades are as follows:

A	93 – 100%	C-	70 – 72.9%
A-	90 – 92.9%	D+	68 – 69.9%
B+	88 – 89.9%	D	63 – 67.9%
B	83 – 87.9%	D-	60 – 61.9%
B-	80 – 82.9%	E	0 – 59.9%
C+	78 – 79.9%		
C	73 – 77.9%		

A complete listing of university policies on grades may be found at <http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/files/handbook.pdf>.

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 article. You are responsible for all of the readings. It always helps to write a review on each article or chapter you read and have notes on the topics relevant for the discussion and questions on the take-home on the aspects that you need help understanding.

Disclaimer: During the semester, the schedule and course requirements may be adjusted. All changes will be announced.

Attendance is required.

No extra credit is offered for this course.

Course Policies

Electronics. Cell phones must be turned off during class, and social media sites must be off if you insist on using a laptop (not entirely necessary, as I will post any PowerPoint presentations I might use). A significant body of research demonstrates that students who use laptops during class do significantly worse than students who do not.

Academic Honesty. Unless it is connected explicitly 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 \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the [Disability Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) The DRC will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **Please make requests.**

UF Counseling Services. Resources are available on campus for students who have personal problems or need more clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575. Personal, career, and emergency counseling.
2. [Career Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, Career development assistance and counseling
3. [Writing Studio \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

Course Evaluations. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [online evaluations \(Links to an external site.\)](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. [Summary results \(Links to an external site.\)](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) of these assessments are also available to students.

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.

W1: Introduction

W2: What is Environmental Anthropology?

Readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3.

W3: Ethnoecology and a Certain Point of View

Readings: 4, 5, 7. Discussion of the film [Second Nature](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

W4: Common Property and Self-Regulation

Readings: 8, 9, 10.

W5: Ecology, Population, and Resources

Readings: 11, 12, 13

W6: Economic growth, the economies of disasters

Readings: 14, 15, 16

The first take-home exam is due September 24

W7: Development and environmental risks.

Readings: 17, 18, 19

W8: Globalization and the Environment.

Readings: 20,21.

Term Paper Proposal. Due October 1 at 10 a.m.

W9: Environment

Readings: 22, 23.

W10: Environment and identities

Readings: 24, 25.

W11: Readings: 26, 29

W12: identity, moral economy.

Readings: 27, 28,

Term Papers are due November 12 at 10 a.m.

W13: Biodiversity, Economic growth and sustainability.

Readings: 30, 31, 32,

W14: Economic growth and sustainability.

Readings: 33, 34, 35, 36

W15: Consumption, degrowth, commodity fetishism.

Readings: 37, 38.

The second take-home exam is due November 19 at 10 p.m.

W16: Future of culture and environmental development.

Readings: 40, 41, 42.

CRITICAL DATES

First, the take-home exam is due at 10 a.m. September 24.

Term Paper Proposal, Due October 1 at 10 a.m. October 1

Term Papers are due November 12 at 10 a.m.

The second take-home exam is due November 19 at 10 p.m.