

Health, Contamination and Culture Fall 2007

Elizabeth Guillette, Ph.D.

ANT 4930, section 2830, ANG 6930, section 2757
Tuesdays, 5:10 P.M. to 8:10 PM
Little Hall 0201

Good health results not only from the treatment of illness. Human activity, ecological systems and cultural forces combine to reflect the intricate balance necessary for wellness in ourselves and on the earth. Contamination is global, impacting both the status of ecological and human well-being. Unfortunately, contaminant research tends to be specialized in the area of disciplinary interest, with emphasis on the bio-medical and natural sciences, without due consideration of such things as cultural belief systems, the political economy and life-styles. An interdisciplinary approach is required to arrive at a clearer picture of the multiple factors involved with interplay between health, society and contamination.

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the ways major contaminants affect society as well as body functioning and the related outcomes. Emphasis is on human health and the social, economic and political responses to environmental problems. Local, national and global action will be addressed, including action for change plus resistance to change. The goal of the course is to promote awareness of how contamination, either directly or indirectly, impacts the many facets of all fields of daily life and society.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 3:30-5 PM

Wednesday 10:45-11:45 AM

For an appointment: e-mail for time.

Textbooks:

Our Stolen Future, Colborn, Theo, D. Dumanoski and J. Myers. Plume/Penguin Group, NY, 1997

Health, Contamination and Culture, ANT 4930/ANG 6930. E. Guillette. Available at Orange and Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th St., Gainesville, FL

Course Requirements for all students:

Midterm Exam: Oct. 23. Definitions, short answer and essay.

Final Exam: Dec. 5. Short answer and essay with application of course material.

Diversity Festival Paper: Interventions for a Cleaner World, 3- 4 pages DUE Nov. 14.

Undergraduate students

Undergraduate students are expected to select a topic related to the course and do a literature review of the contaminants involved followed by explanation of the impact on social and cultural functioning. Papers should be 7-8 pages long, double-spaced. Other topics may be selected with approval of the instructor and may include a research study or the making of a video on contamination and culture. **DUE NOV. 27**

Undergraduate Grading:

Midterm exam:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
Research paper:	30%
Diversity paper	10%

Graduate students

1. Graduate students are expected to conduct a 20 to 30 minute seminar, using power point for a 10 to 12 minute presentation to be followed with by stimulation of classroom discussion on avenues for intervention. Topics, with due dates, will be selected the first week of class.

2. Graduate students will read a second book, of their choice, dealing with contamination and society. Examples are:

Toxic Deception, Don Fagin, et. al. (how industry manipulates public)

The Making of a Conservative Environmentalist, Gordon Durnil (personal growth)

When Smoke Ran Like Water, Devra Davis (tales of, and battles against pollution)

Hormonal Chaos, S. Krimsky (social and scientific origins of the EDC hypothesis)

Five Past Midnight in Bhopal, D. Lapierre & J. Moro (a history of a disaster)

A formal book review of 3-4 pages, such as those found in referred journals. Due Nov. 27.

Graduate Grading:

Midterm exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Diversity Paper	5%
Book Review	20%
Seminar	25%

Diversity Party Information: Sunday, Nov 4. Time: 6 PM to 9 PM

This is a gathering of community guests and class members. Class members are to be the party hosts, circulating among guests. You will be asking the guests their about their perceptions towards the environmental situation and their views on actions to be undertaken. Attendance is mandatory in order to get the required information. Traditionally, this has been a potluck event but the class may decide otherwise. If potluck, Guillette's provide the meat. A map will be provided in class.

Always feel free to visit during office hours or e-mail me regarding any questions or comments about the class or assigned work. Both negative and positive feedback is appreciated.