

ANT 4403
Environment and Culture
Summer A 2020

Class Meetings: M,T,W,R,F from 11:00am-12:15pm (Period 3) via Zoom

Instructor: Christine Le Jeune

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Office Hours: via Zoom from 12:30-1:30pm on M, T, W and by appointment



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.

Learning Objectives

- 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 nonwestern cultures vary in their understandings of the natural world and the implications for local and global environmental transformations.
- Consider human behavior and globalization, and how human behavior can exacerbate or mitigate environmental degradation.
- Evaluate approaches and opportunities for moving toward a sustainable global social- ecological system.

Required 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.

The textbook is **available online through the UF Libraries system under call number GF8 .E58 2016**.

It will also be placed in course reserves.

Additional Materials

Additional required and recommended readings will be posted on Canvas. Audiovisual material will be accessible through online streaming platforms (Kanopy, YouTube, Vimeo, etc.). Additional materials will be used to highlight key themes and concepts discussed in the textbook, and are intended to enrich understanding by helping students to apply these concepts.

**Please note that quizzes will test your comprehension of all the materials provided, and not just the textbook.*

Additional Resources

American Anthropological Association (<http://www.americananthro.org/>)

Anthropology and Environment Society (<http://ae.americananthro.org/>)

The Society for Cultural Anthropology (<https://culanth.org/>)

Canvas

This course will have a Canvas page (<http://elearning.ufl.edu/>). All assignments should be submitted via Canvas unless otherwise noted. Students will be responsible for checking the Canvas page for course announcements, assignment details, and updates to their grades.

Course Format

The course follows a team-based learning method to facilitate close reading of course materials and stimulate discussion. Students will be divided into groups on the first day of class, and will remain in the same groups throughout the semester. Students will take weekly individual and team quizzes, complete in-class assignments, write a reflective journal that will be shared via Canvas and engage with course material in teams. Fridays are generally reserved for audiovisual material.

**Note: The COVID-19 outbreak has forced this course to move from its original brick-and-mortar format to an online format. I therefore reserve the right to alter the course format if it becomes clear that the learning objectives are not being met.*

Expectations

- I expect you to attend class, unless you have a compelling and verifiable excuse for your absence.
- I expect you to complete assigned readings **before** lecture. Reading ahead of time facilitates assimilation of course material and allows me to address your questions as they arise. *Students who do not do the reading should not expect a good grade in the course.*
- I expect you to participate fully in class discussion. (This also requires that you have done the reading.) Discussions are intended to help students assimilate course material, apply anthropological concepts, and to learn to develop arguments using evidence from texts and lecture.
- I expect you to complete all assignments on time. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be docked one letter grade per DAY that they are overdue.
- I expect you to communicate respectfully with your instructor, and classmates. This includes listening (or reading) intently and offering thoughtful, facilitative responses to your classmates' comments.
- I expect you to complete course evaluations at the end of the semester to help improve the course for future students and provide valuable feedback to your instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Additional detailed directions to follow on Canvas.)

Weekly Individual Quizzes (5 @ 10 pts ea = 50 pts)

Completed **before** class. Weekly individual quizzes will be administered on Canvas to maintain accountability and test initial understanding of that week's materials.

Weekly Team Quizzes (5 @ 10 pts ea = 50 pts)

Completed **during** class. These quizzes will combine questions from the two previous online quizzes and are intended to allow teammates to discuss wrong answers and clarify misunderstandings.

Weekly Team Engagement Activities (5 @ 20 pts ea = 100 pts)

Completed **during** class. Teams will engage in activities during class (debates, simulations, etc.) that are intended to stimulate thoughtful, creative interaction with the course material.

Reflective Journal (80 pts) + Discussion Boards (4 @ 20 pts ea = 80 pts)

These will be graded on **content** and **completion**. The contents of your reflective journal are your "fieldnotes" of your time taking this course.

You will **share one** reflective journal entry (**20 points**) and **respond to at least one** of your peer's entries (**20 points**) **every Thursday** on Canvas. I am flexible on the format—you may share a video, audio recording, poetry, sketch/drawing, photograph, etc. If you choose to be more creative, a written explanation will be required to show that you have engaged with the required readings and additional materials from that week. Please be thoughtful and polite. A rubric will be posted on Canvas.

You will submit your reflective journal at the end of this course, so please keep up with it (80 pts).

Reflective journal due by Friday, June 19 at 11:59pm

Final Project Pitch (20 pts)

Due by Tuesday, May 19 at 11:59pm

You are required to submit a short paragraph (200-300 words) pitching your idea for a final project (see final project options below). This assignment is intended to get you thinking about your final project early on. You will receive feedback so that you can implement changes and move forward with your final project.

Final Project Outline and Bibliography (40 pts)

Due by Monday, June 1 at 9:00am

The final project outline is a short (500-600 word) overview of your final project that concisely outlines the logical flow of your project as a whole.

The bibliography includes 7-10 relevant and well-thought out references and includes a brief sentence for each reference explaining how it relates to your paper topic.

Final Project (180 pts)

Due by Thursday, June 18 at 11:59pm

For your final project, you can choose to write a final paper on a topic of your choice. The paper is expected to be between 10-12 pages (about 2500-3000 words total, not including references). *Format: MS Word (.doc or .docx), Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins.*

Besides the format of a final paper, alternate formats that incorporate features such as ethnographic writing, video and/or audio elements, poetry, storytelling, music, or other artistic expression are possible for the final project but **must be approved by the instructor through the final project pitch**. If you choose to be more creative, you will be expected to include a critical reflection component that addresses the following:

- (1) the main point about the environment and culture that you want to convey,
- (2) how course material(s) were and additional sources (listed in the bibliography) were inspirational in the creation of your project, and
- (3) how this exercise and class changed your perspective on the environment and culture.

Peer Evaluations (Midterm 50 pts + Final 50 pts = 100 pts)

Midterm peer evaluation due by Friday, May 29 at 11:59pm

Final peer evaluation due by Friday, June 19 at 11:59pm

Students will complete two peer evaluations for each of their teammates. The first will be assigned midterm to allow students to get feedback from their teams and assess their standing. Both the midterm and final peer evaluation will be graded for completion and based on teammate feedback. You will be evaluating each member on his or her participation in team activities. (Did they participate regularly? Were they prepared for the day's activity? Did they contribute productively to the team? Respect others' ideas?) This is to hold students accountable to their teams, to ensure that the workload is distributed evenly, and that all students are participating fully and effectively.

Late Work

Unexcused late work will drop one letter grade per day. After one week, work is only eligible for half credit. NO EXCEPTIONS. For excused absences, please provide the appropriate paperwork and speak with the instructor about make-up work. Policies on university-approved excused absences can be found at this [link](#).

Extra-Credit Opportunities

There are no extra credit assignments for this course.

Grading Scale

Grades for this course are calculated on a point system. Assignments and point distributions are described in detail above and below. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions. A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for the major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. Additional information on UF grading policy can be found at this [link](#). Letter grades for this course are determined as follows:

A (94-100%) A- (90-93.99%) B+ (88-89.99%) B (82-87.99%) B- (80-81.99%) C+ (78-79.99%)
C (72-77.99%) C- (70-71.99%) D+ (68-69.99%) D (62-67.99%) D- (60-61.99%) E (<60%)

Point Breakdown

Grading Breakdown:

INDIVIDUAL WORK		TEAM WORK	
Canvas Quizzes	10 pts ea x 5 = 50	Team Quizzes	10 pts x 5 = 50
Reflective Journal Discussion Boards	20 pts ea x 4 = 80	Team Engagement Activities	20 pts x 5 = 100
Reflective Journal	80 pts		
Final Project Pitch	20 pts	Peer Evaluation	
Final Project Outline & Bibliography	40 pts	Midterm	50 pts
Final Project	180	Final	50 pts
Total 450		Total 250	
TOTAL POINTS: 700			

Course Policies

Electronics: Use of an electronic device is necessary for the online format. However, no other devices are allowed during class aside from the one used to access the class meeting.

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 or assignments) 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: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **Requests must be made the first 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:

University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575. Personal, career, and emergency counseling. (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>)

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 352-392-1601, Career development assistance and counseling. (<https://career.ufl.edu/>)

Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Writing assistance, study skills, test preparation. (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>)

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last 1-2 weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are also available to students.