

Environment and Cultural Behavior

ANT 4403-13B8

Fall 2014

Instructor: Ben Burgen

Email: burgen@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 575-6501

Office Hours: TUR B331 (times TBA)

Classroom: MCCB G086

Course Meeting Time: T periods 8-9 (3:00-4:55)

R period 8 (3:00-3:50)

Course Description

This course is designed to examine the ways that cultures interact with, affect, and are affected by environmental contexts. Throughout the course we will look at examples of the interactions between people and their environment from a variety of contemporary cultural contexts. This course will introduce major concepts in environmental anthropology and proceed to address the ways that human-environment interaction is evolving and being contested today. Key themes from the global environmental movement will be related through the lens of anthropology. This course will highlight the ways that anthropologists are contributing to current debates surrounding environmental conservation and climate change. The primary objectives of the course are listed below.

At the end of the class students will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the subfield of environmental anthropology;
2. Identify, summarize, and discuss several ways that human actions shape the environment and vice versa;
3. Identify, summarize, and discuss multiple theoretical and methodological components of environmental anthropology;
4. Classify and discuss the ways that the anthropological perspective is used in attempts to improve the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and attempts to mitigate the negative potentials of climate change
5. Describe and explain how anthropologists are involved in theorizing the relationship between humans and their environment;
6. Build critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

Required Books:

Bodley, John H.

2012 **Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems. 6th Ed.** AltaMira Press.

ISBN: 9780759121584

Igoe, Jim.

2004 **Conservation and Globalization: A Study of National Parks and Indigenous Communities from East Africa to South Dakota.** Thompson Wadsworth.

ISBN: 0534613179

Sutton, Mark Q. & E. N. Anderson

2010 **Introduction to Cultural Ecology. 2nd Ed.** AltaMira Press.

ISBN: 9780759112476

Townsend, Patricia K.

2008 **Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies. 2nd Ed.** Waveland Press.

ISBN: 9781577665816

Supplemental Materials:

In addition to the three required texts, additional readings will be made available with the intention of familiarizing students with current scholarly work being performed by UF anthropology faculty and graduate students related to the course topic. Where possible we will have in-class presentations by UF anthropologists about their work.

All supplemental course materials will be available through the course e-learning website.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule in response to unforeseen circumstances or opportunities. However, no changes will be made to the exam schedule or assignment due dates.

Course Structure and Requirements

Attendance and Participation (20%)

Not including the first day of class, you will be allowed three unexcused absences. Starting with your fourth absence and upon every subsequent absence **1%** will be deducted from your final grade up to a total of **20%**. Otherwise you will be expected to show up for class and participate actively in class discussions.

Excusable absences are defined by official UF policy. Excusable absences include religious holidays, illness, family emergency, and UF athletic or extracurricular activities. Further information on this policy can be found online at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

In order to receive excused absences students must make a good faith effort to inform the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for making up course material covered during their absence whether excused or unexcused. Students are advised to visit the instructor during office hours with any questions about material covered during their absence.

In the event that a student regularly attends class, but does not participate, the instructor has the discretion to deduct points from the attendance and participation grade up to **10%**.

Reading Questions (10%)

You will be expected to submit two questions by email to the instructor before the beginning of class which address the readings for class and provoke either discussion or clarification for 10 class sessions during the semester. Each of these will count for **1%** of your grade.

Critical Thinking Assignments (10%)

Over the course of the semester you are required to write two (2) short papers (between 500 and 750 words) at **5%** each. At the end of each week (during Thursday lectures) I will provide you with some *Questions for Reflection*. You may choose one of these questions (clearly identify the question you are addressing at the beginning of your paper) as the prompt for your critical thinking paper. You may only submit one paper per week and you must turn in your paper for a particular Thursday question the following Tuesday.

Presentation (10%)

A presentation worth **10%** of your final grade will entail leading class discussion of the readings for one class period between September 9th and November 20th. You will be expected to present the assigned reading material and facilitate discussion for 30 minutes in order to receive full credit. Students must select a date to present by or before September 2nd. Only one student may present on a particular day and selection preference will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reaction Paper / Thematic Paper (15%)

You are required to write a paper (2000 words minimum) which draws upon and integrates themes from the required texts and course lectures discussed during the semester. This paper is due the last day of class. You must **choose one of the following two options:**

1 - You can choose to write a reaction paper to the book *Conservation and Globalization* (which we will read as a class during the semester). Your paper should critically engage with the key themes raised by this book and must include a minimum of four (4) additional academic sources.

2 - You can write a paper on a key theme in environmental anthropology of interest to you. Your paper must include a minimum of eight (8) academic sources addressing this topic. You must obtain instructor approval of your topic by Nov. 20th in order to pursue this option.

Exams (35%)

Three (3) exams will be held for the course (two exams worth **10%** each and a final exam worth **15%**). Each exam will cover materials from class readings, films, and discussions up to the date that they are taken. The final exam will be comprehensive. Exams will be composed of a mix of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Extra Credit: Two extra credit assignments will be made available during the course of the semester each worth **2.5%** for an available total of **5% extra credit**.

Grade Dispute Policy: Any concerns about grades must be voiced within 48 hours of the time that they are posted. Otherwise, all grades become final after the 48 hour deadline.

Final Grade

This course will use the grading scale below.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Tot % of points	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

Academic Honesty

The importance of academic honesty is paramount. There will be severe penalties for any act of plagiarism, deception, or fraud. University guidelines relating to academic honesty can be found on the undergraduate catalog website as well as at the Dean of Students website. Specific information regarding university expectations of appropriate student conduct are listed in the student honor code at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

Plagiarism & Cheating

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's ideas and words without acknowledging their authorship. Any act of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero for the assignment and may be referred to the Dean of Students for further discipline.

Campus Resources

Any student experiencing a crisis or other problems which interfere with their ability to pursue academic coursework or affect their general wellbeing is encouraged to make use of the university's counseling resources. The University Counseling Center and Student Mental Health services both provide confidential counseling to current students for free. Information on the University Counseling Center can be found at www.counsel.ufl.edu and for Student Mental Health at www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm

Assistance for Students with Disabilities

The office of the Dean of Students is available to coordinate accommodations for students with special needs. This includes the registration of disabilities, accommodations for classroom access, adaptive computer equipment, and interpretation services. Students requesting assistance should first register with the Disability Resource Center. Students should then present appropriate paperwork to the instructor by the drop/add period deadline. More information is available at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ or (352) 392-8565.

Course Outline

August 26 (T) – Review of Syllabus & Introduction to Course

Foundations of the Field

August 28 (R) – *Environmental Anthropology* **Ch. 1 – 3** – Introduction, Julian Steward's Cultural Ecology, & Ethnoecology

September 2 (T) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 1 & 2** – Introduction & Fundamentals of Ecology

September 4 (R) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 3 & 4** – Human Biological Ecology & Cultural Ecology

September 9 (T) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 1**– Anthropological Perspectives on Contemporary Human Problems

September 11 (R) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 2** – Scale, Adaptation, and the Environmental Crisis

Hunting & Gathering + Pastoralism

September 16 (T) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 5** – Hunting & Gathering &

Environmental Anthropology **Ch. 4 & 5** – Pigs for the Ancestors & Amazonian Hunters

September 18 (R) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 8** – Pastoralism

September 23 (T) – ARTICLE – *Transitions: Pastoralists Living with Change* by Kathleen A. Galvin
Annual Review of Anthropology (2009) 38:185-198.

September 25 (R) – **EXAM 1**

Growing Food

September 30 (T) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 6** – The Origins of Food Production

October 2 (R) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 7** – Horticulture &
Environmental Anthropology **Ch. 6** – Complex Societies

October 7 (T) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 9** – Intensive Agriculture

October 9 (R) – *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* **Ch. 10** – Current Issues & Problems

October 14 (T) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 4** – Malnutrition and
the Evolution of Food Systems

October 16 (R) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 5** – Commercial
Factory-Food Systems

Population & Hunger

October 21 (T) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 6** – Population
Problem & *Environmental Anthropology* **Ch. 10** - Population

October 23 (R) - ARTICLE – *Persistent Hunger: Perspectives on Vulnerability, Famine, and Food
Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* by Mamadou Baro & Tara F. Deubel
Annual Review of Anthropology (2006) 35:521-538.

Cultures of Consumption

October 28 (T) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 3** – Natural Resources
and the Culture of Consumption

October 30 (R) – *Environmental Anthropology* **Ch. 7 & 13** – The Underground Environment:
Minerals & Consumer Cultures

November 4 (T) – **EXAM 2**

Conservation & People

November 6 (R) – *Conservation and Globalization* **Ch. 1 – 3** – Seeing Conservation through the
Global Lens, A Clash of Two Conservation Models, & Fortress
Conservation: A Social History of National Parks

November 11 (T) – HOLIDAY

November 13 (R) – *Conservation and Globalization* **Ch. 4 & 5** – The Maasai NGO Movement &
National Parks and Indigenous Communities: A Global Perspective

November 18 (T) – ARTICLE – *Parks and Peoples: The Social Impact of Protected Areas*
by Paige West, Jim Igoe, & Dan Brockington
Annual Review of Anthropology (2006) 35:251-277.

Climate Change & The Environmental Movement

November 20 (R) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 7** – Poverty and
Conflict & *Environmental Anthropology* **Ch. 8 & 12** – The Climate is
Changing & It Isn't Easy Being Green.

November 25 (T) – *Film* – *Gringo Trails* (Pegi Vail & Melvin Estrella, dirs..) 2013 Icarus Films.

November 27 (R) – HOLIDAY

December 2 (T) – *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems* **Ch. 8** – The Future

December 4 (R) – ARTICLE – *Climate and Culture: Anthropology in the Era of Contemporary
Climate Change* by Susan A. Crate
Annual Review of Anthropology (2011) 40:175-194.
+ Review of IPCC 2014 Report

December 9 (T) – Summary discussion of Course & Review for Final Exam

The **Final Exam** will be conducted during scheduled exam time listed in the course catalog.