

ANT4403-10603(28B0)

Environment and Cultural Behavior

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo

Class Meetings: online

Tuesday: 10:40 PM-11:30 AM, Thursday: 10:40 PM-22:35 PM.

Office Hours: by appt.

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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:

- 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 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.

Exams and Grading

There are two exams for this course – a mid-term and a second at the end of classes (each one 20% of the total final grade). Both exams will be in essay format and will be comprised of short answers and longer essay questions.

Students are also required to write a term paper during the semester. The paper is expected to be between 10-12 pages, typed and double-space., The paper should follow the format guidelines of the journal *American Anthropologist*. On a topic of your choice but approved ahead of time. Detailed directions and a list of suggested topics will be forthcoming next week. To facilitate your paper writing, students are expected to submit a brief proposal, outlining the paper topic and key sources. The paper is worth 20 % 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 that you must not only have interesting and useful things to contribute to the discussion but also remain sensitive to others in the classroom. Being disrespectful of other opinions or hogging the spotlight are just as bad as not saying anything. Your participation grade is worth 20 points (40% of your final grade), this is not a trivial component of the course.

Because real participation remains such an unusual component of most college classrooms, I should add here that “participation” and “discussion” are not unstructured activities. Rather, much of the discussion is guided either by discussion questions provided to accompany readings and periodic small-group, in-class discussions of particular topics.

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

First exam	20 points
Second exam	20
Term Paper	20
Participation in class	20
Attendance	20
Totals	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 policy pertaining to 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 of the articles. You are responsible for all of the readings. It always helps to write a review on each article or chapter that you read, and have notes on the topics that are relevant for the discussion, as well as questions on the aspects that you do not understand.

Disclaimer: Some adjustments may be made in the schedule and course requirements during the semester. All changes will be announced.

ATTENDANCE is required.

There is no extra credit offered for this course.

Course Policies

Electronics. Cellphones must be turned off during class. If you insist on a laptop (not entirely necessary, as I will post any power points I might use), social media sites must be off. There is a significant body of research demonstrating that students who use laptops during class do significantly worse than students who do not.

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) 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

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

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:

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

September 1: Introductions

September 3: What is Environmental Anthropology?

Readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3.

September 8 and 10: Ethnoecology and a Certain Point of View

Readings: 4, 5, 7

September 15 and 17: Ecology, Population, and Resources

Readings: 8, 9, 10.

September 22 and 24: Common Property and Self-Regulation

Readings: 11, 12, 13

September 29 and October 1: Urbanism. **First exam.**

Readings: 14, 15, 16

October 6 and 8: Development and Disaster.

Readings: 17, 18, 19

October 13 and 15: Globalization and the Environment.

Term Paper Proposals Due.

Readings: 20,21,22,23

October 20 and 22: Environment and Identity

Readings: 24, 25, 26.

OctoberI 27 and 29: Identity (continued)

Readings: 27, 28, 29

November 3 and 5: Biodiversity

Readings: 30, 31, 32, 33. **Term Papers Due.**

November 24 Conservation and Consumption

Readings: 34, 35, 36, 37, 38.

Holliday November 25-29

.December 1 and 3. Future of culture and environmental development. **2 Exam.**

Readings: 39, 40, 41, 42

December 8 Final comments.