PROFESSOR:
Dr. Clark Erickson
435 University Museum
cerickso@sas.upenn.edu
215-898-2282

DESCRIPTION: Native Peoples and the Environment. Freshman Seminar; Cross-listed with Latin American Studies LTAM-133, 1 Unit.

The relationship between the activities of native peoples and the environment is a complex and contentious issue. One perspective argues that native peoples had little impact on the environments because of their low population densities, limited technology, and conservation ethic and worldview. At other extreme, biodiversity, and Nature itself, are considered the product of a long history of human activities. This seminar will examine the Myth of the Ecologically Noble Savage, the Myth of the Pristine Environment, the alliance between native peoples and Green Politics, and the contribution of native peoples to appropriate technology, sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity.

OFFICE HOURS:
Thursdays 4:30 – 6:00pm or by appointment (email); My office is Penn Museum 435 (Academic Wing).

ANTHROPOLOGY 133 HOMEPAGE: A Blackboard Course Homepage for this course can be found on Penn Website at https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/, click on Anth 133 after signing in. This homepage will include on-line versions of the course description, syllabus, and handouts; updates on reading assignments and lectures; recent news items on native peoples and the environment; announcements about on-campus seminars and lectures related to the seminar topics; and links to web sites about native peoples and the environment. I recommend saving the address as a "bookmark" and regularly checking the site for new and updated information.

CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesday and Thursdays 3:00-4:30pm, Penn Museum 345 (Academic Wing).
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND ON-LINE READINGS:

   - The Redman book is available for purchase used at Amazon.com or other on-line bookstores. The chapters from this textbook for the first week of readings will be posted as PDF files.

2) *Anthropology 133 Native Peoples and the Environment Readings*: a collection of required readings will be available as PDF format digital files on the Blackboard Course Website at [https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/](https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/). You will need Adobe Reader© software to view the files. I recommend updating to the most recent version of Adobe Reader©. See the Penn Computing for the free software.

COURSE CONTENT:

This seminar focuses on the relationship between native peoples and the environment for freshmen. The course has no prerequisites. I will begin each class with a short lecture introducing the topic. This will be followed by student discussion of the readings. Sometimes the order of lecture and discussion are reversed. Because this course is a seminar, student participation in discussions is required.

I use slide presentations during lectures. Since students will be responsible for the material presented during these illustrated lectures, you might want to seat yourself where you can see your notebook when the room lights are dimmed. I generally do not stop the lecture to spell terminology, although you will periodically be provided handouts with lists of important terminology. Questions and comments are encouraged and may be asked before, during, or after lectures.

REQUIRED READINGS:

A digital copy of the course syllabus with schedule of topics and required readings is provided on the course web site. This syllabus may be periodically updated throughout the semester (using the Announcement Page on the Blackboard site for the class). You must read the required readings before the class meeting. You should be prepared to discuss each of the required readings for all classes. I strongly suggest taking detailed notes while doing the readings. These notes will be useful for in-class discussions and for preparing your papers. Reading guides (“Topics, Themes, and Questions”) will be available for most readings to help you find the key points of the individual readings.
GRADING:

Grading is based on three writing assignments (three 5-10 page papers) and class participation in seminar discussions. I highly recommend that you exchange drafts of your papers with fellow students for editorial comments before submitting draft and final versions. Students will have the opportunity to rewrite their papers for consideration of a higher grade if drafts are received by the due dates (to be announced).

Writing Assignments: I will discuss each writing assignment in detail later in the semester.

Assignment 1: See Handout: date to be announced (30% of final grade)
Assignment 2: See Handout: date to be announced (30% of final grade)
Assignment 3: See Handout: date to be announced (30% of final grade)

Participation in the seminar discussions (10% of final grade)

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to show up for all class meetings (except religious holidays). Missing a class or two could negatively affect your grade. Please get the notes from other students if you have to miss a class meeting. The professor will not provide copies of lecture notes or slide presentations to students.

Laptops may be used to take notes and refer to readings under discussion during class. Laptops, phones, and other electronic devices are NOT to be used for email, texting, Facebook, Twitter, or web browsing during class. Turn off all cell phones before class starts.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students should be familiar with and respect the Academic Code of Integrity of the University of Pennsylvania. Any cheating or plagiarism in this course will be dealt with severely. Please see the Penn websites below for definitions of what constitutes plagiarism and cheating and how to avoid them:

Academic Code of Integrity: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html

Plagiarism - What it is and how to avoid it: http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/engineering/ee/plagiarize.html
Anthropology 133

Native Peoples and the Environment

Fall 2011

Professor Clark L. Erickson

SUMMARY SYLLABUS

September 8: Introduction

September 13: Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism

September 15: The Cofán: Native People, Homeland, And Development.

September 20: Defining Biodiversity (Guest Lecture Eduardo Fernandez-Duque)

September 22: Topic and readings to be announced

September 27: Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity

September 29: Historical Ecology, Archaeology of Landscapes, and New Ecology


October 6: What Do Native People Think and Know about the Environment, What can we Learn?

October 11: Fall Break (no class)

October 13: The Extinction of Big Game Animals of the Ice Age; The Impact of Humans on Pacific Islands.

October 18: Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People

October 20: The Myth of the Noble Savage: Native Americans and Conservation
October 25:  The Impact of Indigenous Hunting I

October 27:  The Domestication of Plants and Animals

November 1:  Native Agroforestry in the Tropics

November 3:  Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon

November 8:  The Domestication of Landscape: Amazonian Black Earths

November 10: The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology

November 15: The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape

November 17: Cities in the Tropical Forest: The Maya

November 22: Environmental Degradation, Global Climate Change and Collapse of Societies

November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 29: The Jungle as Pharmaceutical Cornucopia: Shamanism, Ethnobotany, Bioprospecting, and Intellectual Property Rights

December 1: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Peoples.

December 6: Nature Reserves With or Without Native People

December 8: The Role of Humans in shaping the Past and the Future
Anthropology 133

Native Peoples and the Environment

Fall 2011

Professor Clark L. Erickson

READING SYLLABUS

September 8: Introduction

September 13: Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism


OPTIONAL:

King, Ynestra 1998 [1983] Towards an Ecological Feminism and a Feminist Ecology. IN Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader. Edited by John S. Dryzek and David

**September 15: The Cofán: Native People, Homeland, And Development.**


**September 20: Defining Biodiversity**


OPTIONAL:


**September 22: Topic and Readings to be announced.**

**September 27: Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity**

TEXTBOOK:
Redman Chapter 3


**September 29: Historical Ecology, the Archaeology of Landscapes, and the New Ecology**

**TEXTBOOK:**
Redman: pp. 89-90 (succession, climax community)


**OPTIONAL:**


Mann, Charles 2002 1491: Before it became the New World, the Western Hemisphere was vastly more populous and sophisticated than has been thought. *Atlantic Monthly* March, pp. 41-53.


**October 6:** What Do Native People Think and Know about the Environment, What can we Learn?

TEXTBOOK: Redman Chapter 2

Reichel-Dolmatoff, Gerardo 1976 Cosmology as Ecological Analysis: A View from the Rain Forest *Man* II:307-318


OPTIONAL:


**October 11:** Fall Break (no class)

**October 13:** The Extinction of Pleistocene Big Game Animals of the Ice Age; The Impact of Humans on Pacific Islands.

TEXTBOOK:
Redman: Chapter 1 (Easter Island; pages 7-8 only); Chapter 4


October 18:  Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People


October 20:  The Myth of the Noble Savage: Native Americans and Conservation


October 27:  The Domestication of Plants and Animals

TEXTBOOK:
Redman: Chapter 5


November 1:  Native Agroforestry in the Tropics


OPTIONAL:

Carneiro, Robert L. 1988 Indians of the Amazon Forests. IN People of the Tropical Rain Forest. Edited by Julie Sloan Denslow and Christine Padoch, University of California Press, Berkeley, pp. 73-86.

November 3: Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon.


OPTIONAL:


November 8: The Domestication of Landscapes: Amazonian Black Earths


OPTIONAL:


November 10:  The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology


OPTIONAL:


November 15:  The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape

TEXTBOOK:
Redman: Chapter 5 (skim; you already read this for an earlier lecture/discussion) reread/skim pages 82-96 (Soils); page 101 (Erosion), pages 110-117;


OPTIONAL:


November 17:  Cities in the Tropical Forest: the Maya


OPTIONAL:


November 22: Environmental Degradation, Global Climate Change, Extinctions, and Collapse of Society

Readings to be announced.

November 24: Thanksgiving Break (no class)


OPTIONAL:

December 1: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Peoples.


Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples Organizations 1990 We are Concerned. *Orion* (Summer) pp. 36-37.

OPTIONAL:


December 6: Nature Reserves With or Without Native People


December 8: The Role of Humans in Shaping the Past and the Future
