Anthropology 133

Native Peoples and the Environment

Fall 2013

PROFESSOR:
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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 Website*: a collection of required readings will be available as PDF format digital files on the Blackboard Course Website at 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
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SUMMARY SYLLABUS
(Tentative and subject to change)

August 29: Introduction

September 3: Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism

September 5: The Cofán: Native People, Homeland, and Development.

September 10: Defining Biodiversity

September 12: Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity

September 17: Historical Ecology, Archaeology of Landscapes, and New Ecology


September 24: Adaptation, Historical Ecology, and Forest History (Kevin Burke)

September 26: Topic to be announced.

October 1: What Do Native People Think and Know about the Environment, What can we Learn?

October 3: The Extinction of Big Game Animals of the Ice Age; The Impact of Humans on Pacific Islands.

October 8: Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People

October 10: Fall Break (no class)
October 15: The Myth of the Noble Savage: Native Americans and Conservation
October 17: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting I
October 22: Indigenous Hunting as Sustainable Use
October 24: The Domestication of Plants and Animals
October 29: Topic to be announced (Object Study)
October 31: Topic to be announced (Object Study)
November 5: Native Agroforestry in the Tropics
November 7: Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon
November 12: The Domestication of Landscape: Amazonian Black Earths
November 14: The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology
November 19: The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape
November 21: Cities in the Tropical Forest: The Maya
November 26: The Jungle as Pharmaceutical Cornucopia: Shamanism, Ethnobotany, Bioprospecting, and Intellectual Property Rights
November 28: Thanksgiving Holiday
December 3: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Peoples.
December 5: Cities in the Desert
December 10: Nature Reserves With or Without Native People; The Role of Humans in shaping the Past and the Future
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READING SYLLABUS
(Tentative and subject to change)

August 29: Introduction

September 3: Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism


OPTIONAL:


September 5:  The Cofán: Native People, Homeland, and Development.


OPTIONAL:


September 10:  Defining Biodiversity


OPTIONAL:


September 12:  Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity

TEXTBOOK:
Redman Chapter 3


OPTIONAL:


**September 17:** Historical Ecology, the Archaeology of Landscapes, and the New Ecology

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


OPTIONAL: (additional reading about the case study presented in class)


**September 19:** The Myth of the Pristine Landscape; Degradation vs. Enhancement of the Environment: How is it Measured? At what Scale? Against what benchmark? Disturbance, Change, and Biodiversity

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.


**September 24:** Adaptation, Historical Ecology, and Forest History (Kevin Burke)

Readings to be announced

**September 26:** Topic to be announced

**October 1:** 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:**


“optional reading.” 2013: excellent article but long and dense; focus on some parts?


**October 3:** 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 8:** Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People


**October 10:** Fall Break (no class)

**October 15:** The Myth of the Noble Savage: Native Americans and Conservation


**October 17:** The Impact of Indigenous Hunting

**October 22: Indigenous Hunting as Sustainable Use**


**October 24: The Domestication of Plants and Animals**

TEXTBOOK:
Redman: Chapter 5


**October 29: Topic to be Announced (Object Study)**

**October 31 Topic to be Announced (Object Study)**

**November 5: 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 7: Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon.**


OPTIONAL:


OPTIONAL:


**November 12: The Domestication of Landscapes: Amazonian Black Earths**


OPTIONAL:


**November 14: The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology**

Erickson, Clark L. 2003 Agricultural Landscapes as World Heritage: Raised Field Agriculture in Bolivia and Peru. In *Managing Change: Sustainable Approaches to the Conservation of the Built*

OPTIONAL:


November 19: 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 21: Cities in the Tropical Forest: the Maya


OPTIONAL:

**November 26:** The Jungle as Pharmaceutical Cornucopia; Shamanism, Ethnobotany, Biosprospecting, Intellectual Property Rights.


**OPTIONAL:**


**November 28:** Thanksgiving Break (no class)

**December 3:** Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Peoples.


Schwartzman, Stephen, Daniel Nepstad, and Adriana Moreira 2000 Arguing Tropical Forest

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

OPTIONAL:


December 5: **Cities in the Desert**

Reading to be announced.

December 10: **Nature Reserves With or Without Native People, The Role of Humans in Shaping the Past and the Future**


