Anthropology 133

Native Peoples and the Environment

Fall 2007

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, is 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 3:00 - 5:00 pm; Fridays 2:00 – 4:00 pm by setting up an appointment through the Undergraduate Secretary in Anthropology: contact Ms. Charlene Kwon (email kwonc@sas.upenn.edu or anth-ugrad@sas.upenn.edu; tel. (215) 898-7461). My office is 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: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-5:00pm, Museum 330 (Academic Wing).
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND ON-LINE READINGS:

   - The Redman book is available for purchase as new and used at Amazon.com or other online bookstores.

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 (Courseweb) 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 [Adobe Reader© version 8.0 or higher](http://www.upenn.edu/computing/product/specs/adobereader.html). See the Penn Computing Page below for the free software.

COURSE CONTENT:

This seminar focuses on the relationship between native peoples and the environment for freshmen. There are no prerequisites for this course. I will begin each class with a short lecture introducing the topic. This will be followed by student discussion. Because this course is a seminar, student participation in discussions is required. I may assign rotating groups of students to lead the discussions.

I use slides and digital presentations during lectures. Since you will be responsible for 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. You must read the required readings before the class meeting. You should be prepared to discuss the required readings for each class. I strongly suggest taking notes while doing the readings. These notes will be useful for in-class discussions and for preparing your papers.
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 to students.

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
SUMMARY SYLLABUS

September 5: Introduction

September 10: Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism

September 12: Defining Biodiversity

September 17: Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity

September 19: Historical Ecology, Archaeology of Landscapes, and New Ecology


September 26: What Do Native People Think and Know about the Environment, What can we Learn?

October 1: The Extinction of Pleistocene Big Game Animals of the Ice Age; The Impact of humans on Pacific Islands.

October 3: Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People

October 8: No class: Professor Erickson out of town for Precolumbian Studies Seminar of Dumbarton Oaks.

October 10: The Myth of the Noble Savage: Native Americans and Conservation

October 15: Fall Break (no class)

October 17: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting I
October 22: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting II
October 24: The Domestication of Plants and Animals
October 29: Native Agroforestry in the Tropics
October 31: Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon
November 5: The Domestication of Landscape: Amazonian Black Earths
November 7: The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape
November 12: Herders, Range Management, and Desertification
November 14: The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology
November 19: Cities in the Tropical Forest: The Maya
November 21: Oasis: The Garden City
November 28: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Americans.
December 3: Human Activities: Good or Bad for the Environment? Indigenous Models for Management of the Environment
December 5: The Role of Humans in shaping the Past and the Future
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Professor Clark L. Erickson

READING SYLLABUS

September 5:  Introduction

September 10:  Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism


September 12:   Defining Biodiversity


Optional:


September 17:   Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity

TEXTBOOK:
Redman Chapter 3


Hecht, Susanna and Alexander Cockburn 1989  Seven Beliefs, True and False, about the Amazon. IN The Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon. Verso, London, pp. 231-232.

September 19:   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.


September 26: 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

Ellen, Roy F. 1998 Indigenous Knowledge of the Rainforest: Perceptions, Extraction, and


October 1: 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

Diamond, Jared 2005 Chapter 2: Twilight at Easter. IN Collapse: How Societies choose to Fail or Succeed. Viking, New York, pp. 79-119


October 3: Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People


October 8: No class (catch up on past and future readings)

October 10: The Myth of the Noble Savage: Native Americans and Conservation


October 15: Fall Break

October 17: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting I

Please start reading Alvard for the next lecture

**October 22: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting II**


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

TEXTBOOK:
Redman: Chapter 5


**October 29: Native Agroforestry in the Tropics**


OPTIONAL:

Politis, Gustavo 1996 Moving to Produce: Nukak Mobility and Settlement Patterns in

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.

**October 31:  Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon.**


**November 5:  The Domestication of Landscapes: Amazonian Black Earths**


**OPTIONAL:**


**November 7:  The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape**

**TEXTBOOK:**
Redman: Chapter 5 (skim; you already read this for an earlier lecture/discussion)


November 12:  Herders, Range Management, and Desertification


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


November 19:  Cities in the Tropical Forest: the Maya

Readings to be announced.

November 21:  Oasis: The Garden City

TEXTBOOK:
Redman: Chapter 6-7


OPTIONAL READINGS:


Balick, Michael and Robert Mendelsohn 1992 Assessing the Economic Value of Traditional


November 28: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Americans.


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

OPTIONAL READING:


December 3: Human Activities: Good or Bad for the Environment? Indigenous Models for Management of the Environment


**December 5: The Role of Humans in Shaping the Past and the Future**

