Anthropology 133

Native Peoples and the Environment

Spring 2004

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

DESCRIPTION: Native Peoples and the Environment. Freshman Seminar; Writing Across the University (WATU) Program (fulfills ½ College Writing Distribution); Gen. Req. II: May be counted towards the General Requirement in History & Tradition (in some older listings, the course is numbered Anth 025); Cross listed with Latin American Studies LTAM-133.

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 appointment (435 Museum)

ANTHROPOLOGY 133 HOMEPAGE: A Blackboard Course Homepage for this course can be found on PennNet 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: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:30pm, Room 4, Williams Hall.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: available at the House of our Own Bookstore, 3920 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, tel.(215) 222-1576.
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2004  Anthropology 133 Native Peoples and the Environment Bulk Pack Reader: a collection of required readings will be available for purchase at the Copy Center, 166 Weiss Tech House, Levine Hall (formerly GRW) near the corner of 33rd and Walnut Streets. Please note that the Copy Center has limited hours in the morning and afternoon and only accepts cash for purchases.

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 slide 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 reading syllabus is provided here and 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 will be based on three writing assignments (three 5-10 page papers) and class participation in seminar discussions. This class is affiliated with the Writing Across the University Program (WATU). You will periodically meet with the WATU Fellow, Mr. Greg Borgstede, to discuss drafts of your papers. I highly recommend that you exchange drafts of your papers with fellow students for editorial comments before submitting the final versions.

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

Assignment 1: See Handout: date to be announced
Assignment 2: See Handout: date to be announced
Assignment 3: See Handout: date to be announced

ATTENDANCE:

Students will be 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.
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Spring 2004

Professor Clark L. Erickson

SUMMARY SYLLABUS

January 13: Introduction

January 15: Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism

January 20: Defining Biodiversity

January 22: Historical Ecology, the Archaeology of Landscapes, and the New Ecology


January 29: What Do Native People Think and Know about the Environment, What can we Learn?

February 3: The Extinction of Pleistocene Big Game Animals of the Ice Age; The Impact of humans on Pacific Islands.

February 5: Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People

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

February 12: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting I

February 17: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting II

February 19: Buffalo, Deer, Beaver, and the Native Americans

February 24: The Domestication of Plants and Animals
February 26: Native Agroforestry in the Tropics
March 2: Pre-Columbian Transformation of the Amazon
March 4: Amazonian Black Earths
March 9: Spring Break
March 11: Spring Break
March 16: The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape
March 18: Herders, Range Management, and Desertification
March 23: preparation of second writing assignment
March 25: preparation of second writing assignment
March 30: Native Fisheries
April 1: Society for American Archaeology Meetings: Class Cancelled
April 6: The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology
April 8: Oasis: The Garden City
April 15: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Americans.
April 20: Human Activities: Good or Bad for the Environment? Indigenous Models for Management of the Environment
April 22: The role of Humans in shaping the Past and the Future
January 13  Introduction

January 15  Contemporary Political Perspectives on the Environment: Environmentalism and Anti-Environmentalism

Hardin, Garrett

Simon, Julian and Herman Kahn

Easterbrook, Gregg

Ehlich, Paul R. and Anne H. Ehrlich

King, Ynestra

Lewis, Martin

January 20: Defining Biodiversity

TEXTBOOKS:
Krech: Introduction
Redman Chapter 2

Raven, Peter

Lovejoy, Thomas

Janzen, Daniel H.

Mann, Charles C.

Guterman, Lila

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.

January 22: Historical Ecology, the Archaeology of Landscapes, and the New Ecology

Textbook:
Redman: pp. 89-90 (succession, climax community); Chapter 3

Botkin, Daniel

TEXTBOOKS:
Krech: Chapter 3

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.

Stahl, Peter W.

Denevan, W.M.

January 29: What Do Native People Think and Know about the Environment, What can we Learn?

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

Ellen, Roy F.
February 3: The Extinction of Pleistocene Big Game Animals of the Ice Age; The Impact of Humans on Pacific Islands.

TEXTBOOKS:
Redman: Chapter 4
Krech: Chapter 1

Diamond, Jared

Stahl, Peter W.
[pages 112-113 only]

February 5: Cooking the Earth: Fire Histories and People

TEXTBOOKS:
Krecht: Chapter 4

Pyne, Stephen J.

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

TEXTBOOKS
Redman Chapter 1

Redford, Kent H.

Stearman, Allyn MacLean
1994 "Only Slaves Climb Trees": Revisiting the Myth of the Ecologically Noble Savage in

**February 12: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting I**

Stearman, Allyn MacLean  

**February 17: The Impact of Indigenous Hunting II**

Alvard, Michael S.  

Redford, Kent, Bert Klein, and Carolina Murcia  

Bennett, Elizabeth and John Robinson  

**February 19: Buffalo, Deer, Beaver, and the Native Americans**

TEXTBOOKS:  
Krech: Chapter 5, 6, 7

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

Redman: Chapter 5

Hastorf, Christine  

Pollan, Michael  

**February 26: Native Agroforestry in the Tropics**
Politis, Gustavo  

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.

Balée, William  

Peters, Charles  

**March 2:** Precolumbian Transformation of the Amazon.

Parsons, James and William Denevan  

Mann, Charles  

**March 4:** Amazonian Black Earths

Mann, Charles  

Mann, Charles  

**March 9 and 11:** Spring Break

**March 16:** The Signature of Settled Life and Farming on the Landscape

TEXTBOOKS:  
Redman: Chapter 5 (skim; you read this for an earlier lecture/discussion)
Stocking, Michael

Fairhead, James and Melissa Leach

March 18: Herders, Range Management, and Desertification

TEXTBOOKS:
Redman: Chapter 6-7 [move to April 8 lecture]

Blumler, Mark A.

Brockington, Daniel and Katherine Homewood

March 23 and 25: Preparation of Second Writing Assignment

March 30: Native Fisheries

Chernela, Janet

Erickson, Clark

April 1: Society for American Archaeology Meetings: Class Cancelled

April 6: The Andes: A Built Environment; Applied Archaeology

Erickson, Clark L.
2003 Agricultural Landscapes as World Heritage: Raised Field Agriculture in Bolivia and

April 8: Oasis: The Garden City

Laureano, Pietro.

Laureano, Pietro.


King, S. R.

April 15: Native Peoples and Green Politics: An Uneasy Alliance; Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, National Parks, and Native Americans.

TEXTBOOKS:
Krech: Introduction and Epilogue


Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples Organizations
1990 We are Concerned. Orion (Summer) pp. 36-37.
Conklin, Beth A. and Laura Graham  

**April 20: Human Activities: Good or Bad for the Environment? Indigenous Models for Management of the Environment**

**TEXTBOOKS:**  
Redman: Chapter 8

Redford, Kent and Allyn Stearman  

Alcorn, Janis B.  

Redford, Kent and Allyn Stearman  

Bailey, Robert C.  

**April 22: The Role of Humans in Shaping the Past and the Future**

Pimm, Stuart L. et al.  

Botkin, Daniel  

Hunter, Malcolm  

Janzen, Daniel  