

ANTH 344: Ecological Anthropology
 Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am to 12:15pm
 Neff Hall 211 (CRN 25778)

Professor: Dr. Sarah Taylor
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Course Description:

Ecological anthropology investigates the relationships of people both to their physical and sociocultural environments, including the effects of these relationships on economic activities, social organizations, and beliefs and behaviors emphasizing the evolutionary development of survival strategies. This field of inquiry has a long history in anthropology. We will discuss the changing approaches to the field along with the ways in which humans have changed their approaches to the world around them. The lectures, discussions, and materials will largely surround the central triad of relations between biology, culture, and nature, as we attempt to understand where humans fit into this ever-changing feedback loop.

Learning Outcomes

There are three class objectives; exams and assignments will be related to them:

- a. Understand the relationship between culture and the environment;
- b. Learn about the importance of an ecological perspective; and
- c. Identify ways that nature has influenced humans over time and vice versa.

Required Texts:

Daniel Bates, Human Adaptive Strategies: Ecology, Culture, and Politics, Third Edition, 2005 ISBN: **978-0205418152**
 Virginia D. Nazarea, ed. Ethnoecology: Situated Knowledge/Located Lives ISBN: **978-0816523641**
 Carole L. Crumley, et al. eds. New Directions in Anthropology and Environment: Intersections ISBN: **978-0742502659**

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30pm to 3:30pm, Wednesday 10:00am to 1:00pm, and by appointment.

Grading:

Participation	100 points
Subsistence Strategy Presentation	150 points
Team Readings	150 points
Project	600 points
Total	1000 points

Grade Scale:	
1000-930 = A	769-730 = C
929-900 = A-	729-700 = C-
899-870 = B+	699-670 = D+
869-830 = B	669-630 = D
829-800 = B-	629-600 = D-
799-770 = C+	599-0 = F

1. Participation (100 points):

This class will consist of both lecture and seminar discussions. Generally, I will spend Tuesday's class lecturing on the week's topic to give us an introduction and overview. Thursday's class will be spent discussing the readings. The class as a whole is expected to participate in this discussion. The assigned readings should be completed before class each week so that you can come to the discussion prepared. If it seems that the group is having difficulty engaging a particular topic I will give a pop quiz at my discretion. Should you miss a class, you will be responsible for the material covered. Please note that you do not begin the class with 100 participation points...you must earn them. These are earned through regular attendance and active participation in classroom discussion.

2. Subsistence Strategies (150 points):

On the third day of class, 4 reading teams will be formed. The first team task will be to develop a presentation on the subsistence strategy you selected. You will need to do some research for this presentation. More details will be provided in a handout.

3. Team Readings and Reflection (150 points):

In the second half of the course, your teams will be responsible for creating a handout for one of the chapters in each week's selection from *Ethnoecology*. Each team is assigned a particular chapter for our discussions, and is expected to organize a handout and a plan for the discussion among the group. Remember, this is not a presentation, per se, and you are not expected to prepare a lecture. Instead, this is a way to present talking points and raise questions in order to engage your fellow students in a lively and productive discussion. It is up to each group to decide how to divide the work. Each student will submit a 2 page reflection paper on the last day of class that discusses how ecological anthropology may (or may not) be useful to you in the future, and what you enjoyed (or did not) about working through the readings with your team mates. Your grade for this portion will be based largely on the grade you assign yourself.

4. Student Project (600 points):

This project consists of five parts, all of which are due at different times throughout the semester and each of which are weighted differently. Taken as a whole, this project will represent a synthesis of the knowledge you gain through the study of a specific subsistence strategy, the human aspect of an environmental issue, or the use of ecological knowledge in a problem-solving capacity. We will discuss this project in depth a few weeks into the course.

Project Proposal (100):

The Project Proposal consists of a 4-5 page (double-spaced) paper that introduces your topic and explains why it is useful or relevant. You will be expected to submit a preliminary bibliography with your proposal (not included in the page requirement). This can consist of as many references as you would like, however it is in your best interest to submit a proposal based on a preliminary bibliography that is well developed. The more research you do at this point, the easier the next portion of the assignment will be!

Annotated Bibliography (100):

An annotated bibliography consists of a brief summary of the work (be it an article, a book chapter, an edited volume, or a monograph) that allows you to gain an understanding of the main points. It also serves as a tool to remind you of the content of a particular work so that you can quickly determine if it will be of use to you at a later time. For this assignment you are expected to create an annotated bibliography of at least ten (10) sources that you will use for your final project. There is not minimum length for the annotations; however they

must each contain the following information: Topic, Main argument, Keywords, Relevance to your project, Critique. Please see handout for additional information.

Project Workshop (100):

Each student will have a chance to present their project and receive feedback from their classmates. While students will not be familiar with each of the specific topics presented during workshops, we will all be familiar with the methodologies and broad concepts discussed. Students will take notes while workshop presenters are discussing their projects, and will submit evaluations of each project so that the presenters have the feedback for use later. It is expected that your research project is at an advanced stage at the time of the workshop. This will allow you to make use of the suggestions offered and complete your final project. Each student will prepare handouts for the class outlining the major points of your project. Students will be graded on both the preparation of their own material for the workshop and their participation in peer review portions of the workshop.

Presentation (100 points):

Each student will give a 5-7 minute presentation that summarizes the topic they researched and some of their most important findings. These presentations will take place in the last three class sessions. A schedule will be created later in the semester. Each presenter will use presentation slides (PowerPoints, Keynote, etc...) and will be graded on their presentation content, style, and visual aids.

Final Report (200 points):

The final report represents a culmination of your research on the chosen topic. The paper will be 10-15 pages in length, not including references, notes, and appendices. For specific information about the report format and requirements please see the Writing Guidelines handout.

In this class, as in life, there are no exams.



Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm and the Student Academic Honesty policy http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2_17.htm. If you keep up with the reading, pay attention and take notes during lectures, and study before the exams, there is no reason you should not succeed in this class. In other words, there is no reason to cheat. This class is designed for students to work on their own and to follow a code of ethics that holds you, the student, personally accountable. If I observe any collusion between students, **both parties fail the assignment!** Similarly, plagiarism is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. All assignments will be submitted using Blackboard's SAFE Assign plagiarism checking system. Instances of cheating and plagiarism are immediately reported to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Please take the class seriously, do your work honestly, and we will all enjoy a rewarding semester.

Class policies and etiquette:

- Handouts for each PowerPoint presentation will be posted on Blackboard. These are meant to supplement your notes. They cannot make up for being in class. Some films are available online, while others can be found in the library. All information covered in the texts, all PDFs of readings on BB, and material from films and lectures presented in class are fair game for the exams. I encourage you to contact other students via the discussion forum in BB to ask questions on any material you miss.
- I will respond to all emails and Blackboard messages as quickly as possible, however it may take up to 24 hours. Any message received after 5:00pm will not be read until the following day. If you need immediate assistance, you can contact me during office hours. At this time, I will be available on Blackboard Chat, via email, or via phone, and I will respond to your question right away. You are also expected to check your email regularly, as I will send all important announcements to your WSU email address via Blackboard. Missed emails because you are not in the habit of checking your WSU mail are not a valid excuse for late or missing assignment.
- Based on the amount of information that comes from class lecture and discussion, one cannot successfully complete this class without regular attendance. I will keep track of your attendance on BB. You will lose points for chronic unexcused absences.
- This class will emphasize discussion, participation, and sharing of different perspectives. While dissent from the prevailing notions presented in the readings and class discussions is accepted (and even encouraged!), it must be expressed in a manner respectful to the authors we are reading and to other members of the class.
- No electronic devices are necessary for successful participation in class discussion. Please do not text, type, talk, etc...during the class unless it pertains to the week's topic and is something you would like to discuss with the class as a whole.
- This class runs from 11:00am to 12:15pm. This means that I am entitled to use the entire class time to present information; it is therefore unacceptable for students to interrupt the lecture and discussion by shuffling papers, packing book bags, and other similarly disruptive activities associated with the end of class.
- All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard. We will take some time to go over our course page, but it will be largely up to you to learn how to navigate it. There are numerous resources to help. The first place to start is ALWAYS the help desk. 978-HELP
- Lastly, your success in this class is my main objective for the semester. Should you experience unexpected academic, personal, or work related issues that affect your participation in the class please contact me right away. I will not always be able to accommodate you; however the earlier you discuss the situation with me the more likely it is that I will be able to assist.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: January 21 and 23

T Introduction

Th HAS Chapter 1: The Study of Human Behavior

Week 2: January 28 and 30

T HAS Chapter 2: Evolution, Ecology, and Politics

Th Film: *Guns, Germs, and Steel, Part 1* (watch in class)

Week 3: February 4 and 6

T HAS Chapter 3: Foraging

Th Subsistence Strategy Presentation: Demo by SRT ~ Project Discussion and Q&A

Week 4: February 11 and 13

T HAS Chapter 4: Horticulture

Th Subsistence Strategy Presentation: Group 1

Week 5: February 18 and 20

T HAS Chapter 5: Nomadic Pastoralism

Th Subsistence Strategy Presentation: Group 2

Week 6: February 25 and 27

T HAS Chapter 6: Intensive Agriculture

Th Subsistence Strategy Presentation: Group 3

Week 7: March 4 and 6

T HAS Chapter 7: Industrial Society and Beyond

Th Subsistence Strategy Presentation: Group 4

Week 8: March 11 and 13

T HAS Chapter 8: Change and Development

Th Project Proposals DUE

Week 9: March 18 and 20

SPRING BREAK!

Week 10: March 25 and 27

T EE Introduction ~ Proposals Returned

Th EE Part 1: Ethnoecology

Week 11: April 1 and 3

T EE Part 2: A Parallax Recognized

Th Discussion

Week 12: April 8 and 10

T EE Part 3: Negotiating the Commons

Th Discussion ~ Annotated Bibliography DUE

Week 13: April 15 and 17

T EE Part 4: Ethnoecology's Relevance

Th Discussion

Week 14: April 22 and 24

T Project Workshop

Th Project Workshop

Week 15: April 29 and May 1

T Project Workshop

Th Final Presentations

Week 16: May 6 and 8

T Final Presentations

Th Final Presentations

Week 17: May 15 (1:00pm to 2:50pm)

Final Exam Time Slot: Final paper DUE by 2:50pm, May 15th