SOAN 333: Environmental Anthropology
(Winter 2014)
Carleton College
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Instructor: Dr. Constanza Ocampo-Raeder
Email: constanza@carleton.edu
Office Location: Leighton 232
Office Hours: Mondays 10-noon and Tuesdays 3:15-5:15 pm (sign up via Moodle)

COURSE GOALS
Broadly speaking, this course evaluates the different ways by which anthropologists understand, document and evaluate human/nature relationships. Key questions explored include: How do people adapt to different environmental conditions? What environmental variables are critical to human adaptation and resilience? Are there societies around the world that know how to sustainably manage their local resources? How do human populations react to environmental change? How is the study of human/nature relationships impacted by ideological tendencies and methodological biases? And what are the social causes behind environmental degradation?

The course will explore these questions via a combination of three approaches:
1) An examination of the intellectual genealogy of environmental and evolutionary thought in anthropology via an analysis of classic ethnographic works and a discussion of their influence and legacy.
2) An examination of contemporary research approaches in environmental and ecological anthropology via an exploration of different theoretical tendencies and methodologies implemented in a variety of environmental and socio-cultural settings.
3) An examination of case studies from around the world that apply clear anthropological frameworks and methodologies to evaluate environmental problems, inform environmental policy, or solve challenges that emerge in the implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

In addition to themes explored in class students will have the opportunity to further delve into individual interests through an in-depth research project that will culminate in an environmental anthropology portfolio composed of an annotated bibliography and a conceptual poster of an approved theme. This project will allow students to experience the involved process of investigating an idea in the literature without the “emotional pressure” of culminating the term with a research paper. In other words the course is designed to help you develop an idea that can be incorporated into a comps project, graduate school proposal, research internship idea, or post-graduation project.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
As part of Carleton's assessment initiative, the SOAN Department of has identified six Student Learning Outcomes for SOAN majors. In this course you will learn four of these outcomes:
• Formulate appropriate sociological and/or anthropological research questions about socio-cultural phenomena.
Select appropriate sociological and/or anthropological research methods to study socio-cultural phenomena.

Apply sociological and anthropological theory to analyze socio-cultural phenomena.

Draw upon your understanding of historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena to engage the world.

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Your grade during the term will be assessed through a combination of participatory activities, written products and a short exam. Instructions, rational and objectives for each assignment will be clearly outlined for you during class and posted on Moodle for reference. In all cases do not hesitate to contact me if you have any question regarding instructions or expectations.

More specifically your final grade will be divided into five sections:

- **Annotated Bibliography**: 40%
- **Final Poster Project**: 20%
- **Midterm Exam**: 10%
- **Participation**: 20%
- **Attendance**: 10%

**Annotated Bibliography**: This project consists of developing a research portfolio consisting of 20 annotated citations (on an approved theme in environmental anthropology) and a short introductory section or research statement (less that 2 pages) that describes your research process throughout the term. Annotated citations will be due in small groups throughout the term which will be graded and contain feedback that you are expected to address by the time you turn in your final portfolio. In general, each citation will consist of a two-three page (single spaced) critical analysis. The analysis should provide a brief summary of the article (not a copy of abstract), the author's main hypotheses, an explanation of methodologies and data used to prove their argument, and a critique of the author's argument and conclusions as it related to your research theme. You will receive detailed written instructions on how to do the annotations as well as a sample annotation.

Most of your annotations should come from academic sources in anthropology or related disciplines (but mostly anthropology) that you will locate within academic journals and books. Please note that at least one of your annotations should come from an academic source in another language. If you do not speak another language come talk to me so we can discuss viable approaches. This requirement is meant to help you realize that the production of knowledge occurs in different languages, intellectual traditions, and formats and that a good researcher should always consider that there are valuable resources to be found beyond the Anglophone world. In addition to the alternative language requirement you should also plan to annotate at least one relevant work (maximum 5) stemming from an unconventional source such as works of art, radio shows, public sources, etc. I will provide guidelines on how to annotated these kinds of sources once they have been chosen.

**Final Poster Project**: This project consists of creating a final product that encourages you to think about presenting your findings in a manner that is appealing to a broader non-academic public. In other words, instead of doing the “typical” presentation of what you discovered
during your research at the end of the term I would like you to design a poster that presents your findings in engaging and clever ways. The goal is to package your ideas in a way that is appealing to the public (e.g. a potential employer, an exhibition, or even your family) without sacrificing the transmission of complex ideas. Therefore, for this project I am looking for creative thinking so there is no right or wrong path, however the end product should be inspiring, show effort and creativity, and manage to present complex anthropological insights in new ways. To help with this process we will be advised by Doug Foxgrover who is Carleton’s Communications and Training Coordinator /Curator and has ample experience designing posters and some very neat ideas to try out.

**Midterm Exam:** This exam will test your knowledge of key concepts found in environmental anthropology. The exam is focused on the first half of the course where classic case studies and contributions are discussed in detail. Students are expected to show an understanding of how current approaches have been influenced by classic works and key intellectual tendencies.

**Participation:** You are expected to come prepared to contribute insightfully to class discussion during every meeting time. For this portion of your grade I am looking for quality not quantity and will give you written feedback during the term to let you know how you are doing with participation. *If you are shy or are having problems finding a space to contribute* do come see me as I strive to create a positive discussion environment in class and the more I know about you and your concerns with class dynamics the more I can help you in the process.

**Attendance:** You are expected to come to all our meeting times even in the event of a guest lecture. Please note that if you have more than two unexcused absences you will forfeit your entire attendance grade and your participation grade will be impacted as well. However, if you have a legitimate excuse please let me know and we can discuss alternative assignments.

**LATE AND MAKE-UP POLICY**
Please note that I am very strict about due dates. Unless you have a legitimate excuse for turning in an assignment late or missing an exam I will either not accept the assignment or deducts points from your grade. Although I am certainly sympathetic to emergencies I do ask you to try to let me know what is happening before the assignment or exam comes around in order to avoid misunderstandings.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
You are expected to adhere to Carleton’s code of academic honesty. Even in the event of participating in team projects, your final report should still reflect your own work and other people's ideas should always be credited. If you have any questions regarding this policy please visit [http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/) or come speak to me. Failure to follow Carleton’s expectation will result in a failing grade and formal action with the administration.

**OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATIONS**
I hope you will all come see me during office hours to discuss the course, ideas for other projects, or career plans. Interacting with students is one of the aspects that I most enjoy about my job so please **DO NOT BE SHY** and take advantage of office hour! If you cannot make office hours let me know and we can always schedule an alternative time, or even go out to lunch through the dining services “take a prof out to lunch” scheme (it is free to both of us and we get three a term).
EMAIL
Regarding email please note that I will try to answer emails within a 24 hr period but that I reserve the right to not answer emails during the weekend (late Sundays are often the exception but do not expect it). I also do not text students so please do not try because I will probably miss them. Finally, although I encourage you to contact me via email with questions, if the question requires a long answer I may ask you to come see me personally so I can give you a proper response.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
If you need any help dealing with the requirement of the course please let me know so I can direct you to the multitude of resources available to you at Carleton. Although I will be posting relevant resources to individual assignments come see me if you are having trouble taking notes, studying for the exam, writing up assignments, stress, etc. I will be more than delighted to help direct you and work with you with what you need.

In case you are interested in exploring your options on your own, a comprehensive list of resources can be found here: https://www.carleton.edu/student/support/

LIBRARY
Worth mentioning is our fabulous library staff, in particular Kristin Partlo (the social sciences reference librarian). If you have any questions or need help finding resources for the class, she is a great resource. I expect you to meet with her at least once during the term. Please email her at kpartlo@carleton.edu to set up an appointment.

COURSE READINGS
Readings will be posted in Moodle a week or more in advance. Since the course will be modeled according to student interests and progress I may switch the theme or author depending on how the class is going. You are expected to complete the assigned readings by class time and come prepared to actively participate in class discussions. Please note that some weeks have heavier readings loads than others, for this reason I suggest you pay attention to what I say the week before (i.e. if it is a dense reading or not) and plan accordingly.

TIP: It is very easy for a professor to know if you did not do the assignment readings. Since this is a small class please come prepared and do not expose yourself to the uncomfortable situation of having to explain in front of everyone why you did not prepare for class. HOWEVER, if you have an issue come up and simply could not prepare, let me know before class so we can devise a plan.

EXTRA SESSIONS & CONTINGENCY PLAN
This term is tricky for me since I am pregnant and expect to deliver by the end of the term. I have made arrangements with colleagues who have graciously agreed to come guest lecture around my due date. However, as much as I plan you simply do not know what may happen (nature does not always care to form a “relationship” with humans!). For this reason I am requesting that we schedule three alternative one-hour sessions during the term in order to make sure we have time to discuss key concepts and your projects. These session will happen early on during the term in order to provide a space for a calm discussion of my expectations regarding your individual projects and avoid confusion. I appreciate your collaboration and understating in this matter.
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS THEME</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Jan 7</td>
<td><em>Introduction to Themes in Environmental Anthropology:</em> After decades of research, why are human/nature relationships portrayed in problematic and oversimplified ways?</td>
<td>Discussion of film on Ache society in Paraguay</td>
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<td>Thu Jan 9</td>
<td><em>The Kula Ring:</em> Functionalism and its legacy to environmental analysis</td>
<td>Malinowski (The Kula Ring)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<td>Tue Jan 14</td>
<td><em>White and Steward’s Legacy:</em> Early contributions in environmental anthropology</td>
<td>White (Energy)</td>
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<td>Steward (Patrilinear Bands)</td>
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<td>Thu Jan 16</td>
<td><em>Neo-Functionalism:</em> Using environmental analysis to make sense of foreign systems</td>
<td>Harris (The Sacred Cow)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<td>Tue Jan 21</td>
<td><em>From Pigs to Alps:</em> The beginnings of a new kind of ecological anthropology</td>
<td>Rappaport (Pigs for the Ancestors)</td>
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<td>Netting (Balancing Alp)</td>
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<td>Thu Jan 23</td>
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<td>***EXTRA SESSION SCHEDULED FOR 7PM (SOAN Lounge, dinner provided)</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT: Come prepared to orally present your research topic to the class. Turn in revised research statement.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<td>Tue Jan 28</td>
<td><em>The Influence of Sociobiology:</em> Human Behavioral Ecology</td>
<td>Wrangham (Demonic Males)</td>
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<td>Bird (Hunting Signals)</td>
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<td>Thu Jan 30</td>
<td><em>Coevolution:</em> Interactions of genes and culture</td>
<td>Durham (Mundurucu)</td>
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<td>***EXTRA SESSION SCHEDULED FOR</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT: Explore different</td>
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7PM (SOAN Lounge, dinner provided) kinds of posters. Come prepared to discuss findings.

**Week 5**

**Tue Feb 4**  
*Sacred Ecology: Nature, religion, and resource management*  
***MIDTERM EXAM handed out at the end of class***

**Thu Feb 6**  
*Resource Management Studies: The socio-cultural, environmental and economic intricacies of living of local resources*  
Irvine (Swidden Systems and Succession Management)  
Leech (African Landscapes)

**Fri Feb 7**  
***MIDTERM EXAM due in mail box by 5pm***

**Week 6**

**Tue Feb 11** Continued....  
Fragoso (Peccary Hunting)  
Vickers & Hames (Protein Debates)  
ASSIGNMENT: three annotated citations due

**Thu Feb 13**  
*Anthropogenic Ecosystems: Contesting the pristine myth*  
Mann (1492)  
Balee (Anthropogenic Amazonia)  
ASSIGNMENT: Make office hours appointment to discuss final project and poster progress

***EXTRA SESSION SCHEDULED FOR 7PM (SOAN Lounge, dinner provided)***  
ASSIGNMENT: Turn in a “conceptual draft” for poster project

**Week 7**

**Tue Feb 18**  
*Common Property Theory: Managing shared these resources sustainably*  
Acheson (Maine Lobsters)  
ASSIGNMENT: five annotated citations due

**Thu Feb 20**  
*Resilience and Vulnerability: What does it take to make a coupled human-nature system survive change?*  
Berkes (Resilience)

**Week 8**

**Tue Feb 25**  
*Environmental Anthropology in the Applied Realm: Conservation critiques, documenting human impacts, and providing context.*  
Brosius (Indigeneity and Environmentalism)  
ASSIGNMENT: five annotated citations due plus draft of research statement.

**Thu Feb 27** Continued....  
West (Resisting Conservation in Papua New Guinea)
**Week 9**

**Tue Mar 4**  *Collaborations*: Challenges and new directions in conservation, interdisciplinary projects and participatory processes.

**Thu Mar 6**  *Food Security*: Understanding the social causes behind food scarcity and aid.

**Week 10**

**Tue Mar 11**  Peer Assessment of Final Poster

**Finals Week**

***HARDCOPIES OF FINAL PORTFOLIO AND POSTER ARE DUE ON THE LAST DAY OF FINALS BY 5PM (Monday March 17) in my mailbox in SOAN.***