

Ecological Anthropology/Cultural Ecology, Fall 2005

ANG 5403.01/ANT 3403.01

Instructor: Andrew S. Mathews

Class Meeting Times: Wednesday 11.00-1.45

Location: PC 211

[HOME](#) | [GRADING SCHEME](#)

Office: DM 336 A

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Tel: 305-348-2247 (I work at home on M,W, so if you need to contact me urgently, you should e-mail me).

Office Hours: Tu, Th 11-12.00 or by arrangement.

Course Description

This is an upper level undergraduate/graduate class focusing on different ways of analyzing the relationship between society and environment. Traditional anthropological approaches have come from cultural ecology, which seeks to explain human-environment interactions in terms of the interactions between local societies and their environments, and uses ethnography to describe the ecological knowledge of resource dependent peoples. A second tradition, political economy, analyzes environmental impacts as the result of the world political economy. A recent attempt at synthesis has been made by the new field of political ecology, which seeks to tie local level details into the broader political economy by paying attention to cultural, historical and ecological factors. Analysis and practice are closely related; defining the causes of environmental problems is a necessary step to designing policies to remedy them. In the second half of the course

we apply anthropological approaches to the history and present practices of development, looking at proposed solutions to development problems, including traditional ecological knowledge, community in conservation, and attention to gender.

Course requirements and evaluation for graduate students

Course requirements and evaluation for undergraduate students

Undergraduate Students

Regular attendance in class: You get 2% for each time you attend class, for a maximum of 20 %.

Participation in discussions. 20%

The class will consist of 1 ¼ hours of lecture, 1 ¼ hours discussion, so your participation in class is very important. You must do the readings before coming to class, as you will be expected to show familiarity with the material.

Reactions to readings: 26 %

You are expected to write a short (1-2 pages, 250-500 words) summary for one of the readings every week. (2% per reaction)

Final Take Home Exam: 34%

This will be combination of short and long answers.

Web CT. This is a Web CT assisted course: you are responsible for logging regularly into the web CT site at <http://webct.fiu.edu> , where you will find handouts, lecture notes, and communications from the instructor, and where you will be able to send e-mails and

documents to the class. All assignments must be submitted to me in hard copy. If you have trouble accessing Web-CT you will find support at http://uts.fiu.edu/index.cfm?action=webct_techhelp or you can call UTS tech support at 305-348-2284.

Books All Students

Lansing, J. S. (1991). *Priests and programmers: technologies of power in the engineered landscapes of Bali*. Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press.

Milton, K. (1996). *Environmentalism and cultural theory: exploring the role of anthropology in environmental discourse*. New York, Routledge.

Books, Graduate Students

Tsing, A. (2004). *Friction*. Duke University Press

Rappaport, R. A. (1984 [1968]). *Pigs for the ancestors: Ritual in the ecology of a New Guinea people*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press.

Fairhead, J. and M. Leach (2000). *Misreading the African landscape: society and ecology in a forest-savanna mosaic*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, The African Studies Center, Cambridge.

Ferguson, J. (1994). *The anti-politics machine. "Development" depoliticization and bureaucratic power in Lesotho.*, University of Minnesota Press.

Orlove, B. (2002). *Lines in the water: Nature and Culture at Lake Titicaca*. Berkeley, University of California Press.

Schedule of topics and readings

Week 1, Wed. August 31: Introduction to Class: What is Environmental Anthropology? How Problem definition affects the proposed solution.

Milton, K. (1996). Environmentalism and Cultural Diversity. Environmentalism and cultural theory: exploring the role of anthropology in environmental discourse. New York, Routledge. Pg. 106-141.

Advanced Readings

The rest of Milton

Brosius, P. (1999). "Analyses and interventions: anthropological engagements with environmentalism." Current Anthropology 40(3): 277-309.

Week 2, Wed Sept. 7. Cultural Ecology and Materialist Approaches

Milton, K. (1996). Environmentalism and cultural theory: exploring the role of anthropology in environmental discourse. New York, Routledge. Pp. 37-68

Julian Steward, Steward. J. H., 1977 (1955). The Concept and Method of Cultural Ecology. In: J. H. Steward (ed.), *Evolution and Ecology*. University Illinois Press, pp. 43-57.

Geertz, C. (1963). Agricultural Involution: The Process of Ecological Change in Indonesia. Berkeley, University of California Press.. Chapter 1: The Ecological Approach in Anthropology

Cultural Materialism: The Sacred Cow

Harris, M., 1966. The cultural ecology of India's sacred cattle. *Current Anthropology* 7: 51-66.

Advanced Readings

Start Reading Rappaport

Week 3, Wed Sept. 14: Ecological Anthropology

Rappaport, R. A. (1982). Ritual regulation of environmental relations among a New Guinea people. *Anthropology for the eighties*. New York, Macmillan: 371-385.

Rappaport, R. A. (1984 [1968]). Pigs for the ancestors: Ritual in the ecology of a New Guinea people. New Haven and London, Yale University Press. Pg 313-344

Orlove B., 1980. Ecological Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 9: 235-273.

Advanced Readings

ALL. Rappaport, R. A. (1984 [1968]). Pigs for the ancestors: Ritual in the ecology of a New Guinea people. New Haven and London, Yale University Press.

Wolf, E. R. (1999). "Cognizing cognized models." American Anthropologist **101**(1): 19-22.

Additional Readings

Sahlins, M., 1978. "Culture as protein and profit." *New York Review of Books*. November 2, pp. 45-53.

Week 4, Wed. Sept. 21: Political Ecology- Degradation, Malthusianism, and Environmental Movements

Robbins, P. (2004). Political Ecology. Oxford, Blackwell. 1-40

Davis, M. (1998). Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World. New York, Metropolitan Books. 24-90

Advanced Readings

Blaikie, P. (1985). All. Photocopy Available.

Escobar, A. (1999). "After nature: Steps to an antiessentialist political ecology." **Current Anthropology** **40**(1): 1-30.

Week 5, Wed Sept. 28: Discourse Analysis- Boundary Drawing in Time and Space

Cronon, W. (1992). "A place for stories: nature, history and narrative." *The Journal of American History* 78(4): 1347-1376.

Craib, R. B. (2002). "A nationalist metaphysics: State fixations, national maps, and the geo-historical imagination in nineteenth-century Mexico." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 82(1): 33-68.

Advanced Readings

Robbins, P. (2003). "Beyond Ground Truth: GIS and the Environmental Knowledge of Herders, Professional Foresters, and Other Traditional Communities." *Human Ecology* 31(No.2, June): 233-253.

Additional Readings

Winichakul, T. (1994). *Siam Mapped: a history of the geo body of a nation*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press. ON RESERVE

Week 6, Wed. October 5: Environmental History-Nature and Culture

Film "Second Nature"

Read any two of these three articles.

Fairhead, J. and M. Leach (1995). "Reading forest history backwards: the interaction of policy and local land use in Guinea's forest-savanna mosaic." *Environment and History* 1(1): 55-92.

Mathews, A. S. (2003). "Suppressing fire and memory: Environmental degradation and political restoration in the Sierra Juárez of Oaxaca 1887-2001." *Environmental History* 8(1): 77-108.

Raffles, H. (2003). "Further Reflections on Amazonian Environmental History: Transformations of Rivers and Streams." *Latin American Research Review* 38(3).

Advanced Readings

Fairhead, J. and M. Leach (2000). *Misreading the African landscape: society and ecology in a forest-savanna mosaic*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, The African Studies Center, Cambridge.

Recommended Readings

Cronon, W. (1983). Changes in the land: Indians, colonists, and the ecology of New England. New York, Hill and Wang.

Grove, R. (1992). "The origins of western environmentalism." *Scientific American* 267: 42-48.

Grove, R. (1996). "Indigenous knowledge and the significance of South-West India for Portuguese and Dutch constructions of tropical nature." *Modern Asian Studies* 30(1): 121-143.

Grove, R., H. (1995). *Green Imperialism*. New York, Cambridge University Press

Whitmore, T. M. and B. L. Turner II (2001). Cultivated landscapes of middle America on the eve of the conquest. New York, Oxford University Press.

Week 7, Wed. October 12: Production Systems- Swidden Agriculture and its opponents

Film "Highland Maya Milpa"

Dove, M. (1983). "Theories of swidden agriculture and the political economy of ignorance." *Agroforestry Systems* 1(1): 85-99.

Alcorn, J. B. (1984). Huastec Maya ethnobotany. Austin, Texas University Press. 323-394

Advanced Readings

Scott, J. C. (1998). Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed. New Haven and London, Yale University Press. 1-52, 262-306

Week 8, Wed. October 19: Production Systems- Ranching in the American West

Sayre, N. F. (2002). Ranching, Endangered Species, and Urbanization in the Southwest. Tucson, University of Arizona Press. Pp. 4-127

Advanced Readings

The rest of: Sayre, N. F. (2002). Ranching, Endangered Species, and Urbanization in the Southwest. Tucson, University of Arizona Press. (There will be a copy of this book on 2 hour reserve)

Williams, D. M. (2000). "Representations of nature on the Mongolian steppe: an investigation of scientific knowledge construct)on." American Anthropologist **102**(3): 503-519.

Week 9, Wed. October 26: Production Systems: Green Revolution Agriculture and its Opponents

Film: "The Goddess and the Computer."

Lansing, J. S. (1991). *Priests and programmers: technologies of power in the engineered landscapes of Bali*. Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press. At LEAST Introduction and Chapters 4-6, Conclusion

Advanced Readings

The Rest of Lansing.

Dove, M. R. and M. K. Kammen (1997). "The epistemology of sustainable resource use: managing forest products, swiddens and high-yielding variety crops." Human Organization **56**(1): 91-101.

Trawick, P. (2001). "The Moral Economy of Water: Equity and Antiquity in the Andean Commons." American Anthropologist **103**(2): 361-379.

Week 10: Wed. November 2. Production Systems: Fishing and the Seas

Lowe, C. (2000). *Global Markets, Local Injustice in Southeast Asian Seas: The Live Fish Trade and Local Fishers in the Togeian Islands of Sulawesi, Indonesia*. People, Plants, and Justice: The Politics of Nature Conservation. C. Zerner. New York, Columbia University Press.

Orlove, B. (2002). *Lines in the water: Nature and Culture at Lake Titicaca*. Berkeley, University of California Press. 117-208

Advanced Readings

The rest of Orlove, Take a look at the rest of "People Plants and Justice"

Week 11, Wed. November 9: Development

Ferguson, J. (1994). *The anti-politics machine. "Development" depoliticization and bureaucratic power in Lesotho.*, University of Minnesota Press. Pages 1-73, Pg 249-288

Advanced Readings

The Rest of "The anti-politics machine". "Development,"

Cowen, M. and R. Shenton (1995). *The invention of development. Power of Development.* J. Crush. London, Routledge: 27-43.

Li, T. (1999). "Compromising power: development, culture and rule in Indonesia." Cultural Anthropology **14**(3): 295-322.

Additional Readings

Baviskar, A. (2002 (forthcoming)). *The dream machine: the model development project and the remaking of the state.* Waterscapes: the cultural politics of a natural resource. Delhi, Oxford University Press.

Bebbington, A. (2000). "Reencountering development: livelihood transitions and place transformations in the Andes." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **90**(3): 495-520.

Sawyer, S. (2002). "Bobbitizing Texas: Dis-Membering Corporate Capital and Re-Membering the Nation in Ecuador." Cultural Anthropology **17**(2): 150-180.

Watts, M. (2001). "Development ethnographies." Ethnography **2**(2): 283-300.

Week 12, Wed. November 16: Indigenous knowledge and indigenous identity

Agrawal, A. (1995). "Dismantling the divide between indigenous and scientific knowledge." Development and change **26**: 413-439. Haenn, N. (1999). "The power of environmental knowledge: ethnoecology and environmental conflicts in Mexican conservation." Human Ecology **27**(3): 477-491.

Brosius, J. P. (1997). "Endangered forest, endangered people: environmentalist representations of indigenous knowledge." Human Ecology **25**(47-69).

Advanced Readings

Gupta, A. (1998). Postcolonial developments. London, Duke University Press. Pg 154-233

Li, T. (2000). "Articulating indigenous identity in Indonesia: Resource politics and the tribal slot." Comparative Studies in Society and History **42**(1): 149-179.

Week 13, Wed, November 23: Community and Conservation

Moore, D. S. (1998). "Clear waters and muddied histories: environmental history and the politics of community in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands." Journal of Southern African Studies **24**(2): 377-403.

Agrawal, A. and C. C. Gibson (1999). "Enchantment and Disenchantment: The Role of Community in Natural Resource Conservation." World Development **27**(4): 629-649.

Advanced Readings

Li, T. (2002). Government through community in the age of neo-liberalism. New Haven, Agrarian Studies Colloquium, Yale University: 19.

Nuijten, M. (2003). "Between Fear and Fantasy: Governmentality and the Working of Power in Mexico." Critique of Anthropology: 209-230.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14, Wed. November 30: Class Cancelled due to Instructor Conference Attendance.

Week 15, Wed. December 7: Environmental Anthropology and Globalization

Tsing, A. (2000). "Inside the economy of appearances." Public Culture **12**(1): 115-144.

Choy, T. K. (2005). "Articulated Knowledges: Environmental Forms after Universality's Demise." American Anthropologist **107**(1): 5-18.

Advanced Readings

Tsing, A. (2004). Friction. Duke University Press.

** I will hand out the final undergraduate take home exam today**