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

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**


**Books, Graduate Students**


**Schedule of topics and readings**
Week 1, Wed. August 31: Introduction to Class: What is Environmental Anthropology? How Problem definition affects the proposed solution.


Advanced Readings

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


Cultural Materialism: The Sacred Cow


Advanced Readings
Start Reading Rappaport

Week 3, Wed Sept. 14: Ecological Anthropology


**Advanced Readings**


**Additional Readings**


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


**Advanced Readings**


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


Advanced Readings

Additional Readings

Week 6, Wed. October 5: Environmental History-Nature and Culture
Film “Second Nature”
Read any two of these three articles.

Advanced Readings

Recommended Readings


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

**Film “Highland Maya Milpa”**


**Advanced Readings**


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


**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)

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

Film: “The Goddess and the Computer.”


*Advanced Readings*

The Rest of Lansing.


*Advanced Readings*

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

**Week 11, Wed. November 9: Development**

**Advanced Readings**


**Additional Readings**


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


**Advanced Readings**


**Week 13, Wed, November 23: Community and Conservation**


**Advanced Readings**


**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

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

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


**Advanced Readings**


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