

## **ANTH 154 – Environmental Anthropology**

Syllabus: Winter Quarter 2010

Tuesday and Thursday 11:50 – 13:35, O'Connor 204

Prof. Gregory Gullette

Office: O'Connor Hall 322

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 – 11:30

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Historically there have been longstanding debates of where and how humans fit in with the environment. How do we relate with nature? How do environmental changes affect both our biology and culture? How do our actions impact natural resources and change ecological systems? And of course, how does access to or contests over natural resources affect how human populations interact with each other? These are just a few of the major questions that we will examine throughout the quarter.

We will conduct a relatively broad survey of the discipline, studying such topics as biocultural and critical medical anthropology, the politics behind utilizing natural resources, urban environmentalism, and cultural constructions of “nature.” This course will also focus on anthropology’s role in handling some of these issues. For example, what needs attention when conceptualizing and implementing community-based natural resource management programs? How do donors, banks, NGOs, and corporations shape the formation and implementation of such programs? How do anthropologists work with local community members? By the end of the semester the goal is to have you gain a greater appreciation of environmental anthropology, the power and contests over natural resources, humans’ relationships with nature, and the role of anthropologists in environmental issues.

This course meets the Civic Engagement requirement for Core 2009. For more on the Core, please visit: <http://www.scu.edu/provost/ugst/core2009/index.cfm>

### **COURSE GOALS:**

By the end of the course you should be able to 1) define the field of environmental anthropology, 2) discuss the architecture of the main theoretical ideas that constitute environmental anthropology (e.g., political ecology, cultural materialism, eco-governmentality), 3) explain the growing importance of brown environmentalism, 4) discuss some of the complications created through park establishments and conservation areas in the Global South, and 5) define the contours of the environmental justice field.

Additionally, this course connects with the Engagement learning objectives established in the Core 2009, including: collaborating intellectually and creatively with diverse people; developing a disciplined sensibility toward the causes of human suffering and misery, and a sense of responsibility for addressing them; and addressing major contemporary social issues, including environmental sustainability and peaceful resolution of conflict, by participating actively as an informed citizen of society and the world.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

ANTH 154: A collection of PDF articles and chapters from selected books. See Angel.

Greenough, Paul, and Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing. 2005. *Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Peet, Richard, and Michael Watts. 2004. *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Routledge.

**PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSION:**

Based on the course objectives both your completion of readings prior to each class and your active participation in class discussions are required. Since we will explore environmental anthropology through discussion, it will be conducted in a seminar style. You must come to class prepared to talk. While I do understand that speaking in class may be intimidating, please do not feel so. Nobody is there to judge you (they reserve that for me!). And if you are having a problem with something, it is a good bet that others are in the same boat. So please speak up. Lastly, keep in mind that you cannot participate if you are absent. Attendance is mandatory and missing class negatively affects your grade. At three absences you lose one letter grade, with an additional letter grade for each day thereafter.

**LEADING CLASS DISCUSSION:**

Each student will be randomly assigned one day to lead class discussion (individually or in groups of two if need be). On your chosen day you will distribute a list of key questions to generate discussion. You must submit your questions via Angel by 13:00 two days before you lead a class.

**CLASS ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING E-ANTH LISTSERV):**

Throughout the quarter we will also have class activities such as breaking into groups to discuss a particular reading, answering discussion questions on a documentary, possibly a small field trip to *Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition*, and participation in the EAnth listserv. As this course is connected to the university's program on Civic Engagement, the class activities are geared towards providing you with both the knowledge and skills necessary to understand how anthropology is geared towards the solution of contemporary environmental and social problems, both of which are often interrelated. Any missed class activity cannot be made up for any reason.

**EXAMS:**

There will be two exams throughout the semester, each covering roughly half of the quarter's material. Exams are take home. The exams will primarily consist of short essay and definitions.

**FINAL COURSE GRADE:**

Your final grade will be based on all the above requirements and weighted as follows:

Participation in Class Discussions	100
Leading Class Discussion	100
EAnth Response	100
Class Activities	150
Exam 1	275
Exam 2	275

A = 1000 – 920	A- = 919 – 900	
B+ = 899 – 870	B = 869 – 830	B- = 829 – 800
C+ = 799 – 770	C = 769 – 730	C- = 729 – 700
D+ = 699 – 670	D = 669 – 630	D- = 629 – 600
F = 599 and below		

## **SOME OF THE FINE PRINT:**

### **A CULTURE OF HONESTY:**

Plagiarism, cheating, using old exams or previous students notes, and dishonesty are serious academic offenses and carry a range of penalties from failure of the course to suspension from the University. By enrolling in this course and in Santa Clara University you have agreed to comply with the university's policies on academic honesty. If you are caught cheating in any way, you automatically fail the course and your name will be forwarded to Student Affairs for possible further action. Please take this seriously. It is increasingly a problem among students. If you are in doubt about something, ask. For the complete policy visit: <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/index.cfm>

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you have a disability that requires a classroom or test taking accommodation please see me as soon as possible, either after class or during the scheduled office hours. Additionally, you must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services. Information collected from the Office of Disability Services is strictly confidential. For any accommodation to be made during this course notification must be received by the Office of Disability Services.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Any late work (if accepted) loses one letter grade per day.

## **LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS:**

**Note:** Throughout the semester the "Lecture Schedule and Readings" may be changed, ignored, or even occasionally abused. Any changes will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to keep up with any alterations.

### **January 5: Introduction to the Course and Syllabus**

### **January 7: Introduction to Environmental Anthropology**

Little, P.E. 1999. Environments and Environmentalisms in Anthropological Research: Facing a New Millennium. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28:253-284.

### **January 12: Anthropology's Contribution to Environmental Work**

Dove, M.R. 2006. Indigenous People and Environmental Politics. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35:11.1-11.18.

Purcell, T. 1998. Indigenous Knowledge and Applied Anthropology: Questions of Definition and Direction. *Human Organization* 57(3):258-272.

### **January 14: Political Ecology**

Peet, R., and M. Watts. 2004. "Liberating Political Ecology." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 3-47. London: Routledge.

**January 19: Documentary – *Blowing Up Paradise***

**January 21: Bioculturalism, Syndemics, and Critical Medical Studies**

Leatherman, T.L., and R.B. Thomas. 2001. "Political Ecology and the Construction of Environment in Biological Anthropology." In *New Directions in Anthropology and Environment*. C.L. Crumley, ed. Pp. 113-131. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.

**January 26: Nature, Culture, and Race**

Anderson, W. 2005. "The Nature of Culture: Environment and Race in the Colonial Tropics." In *Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia*. P. Greenough and A. Lowenhaupt Tsing, eds. Pp. 29-46. Durham: Duke University Press.

Kosek, J. 2004. "Purity and Pollution: Racial Degradation and Environmental Anxieties." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 125-165. London: Routledge.

**January 28: Gendered Environments and Poststructuralism**

Schroeder, R.A., and K. Suryanata. 2004. "Gender and Class Power in Agroforestry Systems: Case Studies from Indonesia and West Africa." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 299-315. London: Routledge.

**February 2: Field Trip to *Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition* or Guest Speaker**

**February 4: Ethnoecology**

Haenn, N. 1999. The Power of Environmental Knowledge: Ethnoecology and Environmental Conflicts in Mexican Conservation. *Human Ecology* 27(3):477-491.

Sillitoe, P. 1998. The Development of Indigenous Knowledge: A New Applied Anthropology. *Current Anthropology* 39(2):223-252 (NOTE: You do not need to read the commentaries).

**February 9: Exam Two**

**February 11: Anthropogenic Landscapes and the Natural "Nature"**

Cronon, W. 1995. "Introduction: In Search of Nature." In *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing Nature*. W. Cronon, ed. Pp. 23-56. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

**February 16: Documentary – *Manufactured Landscapes***

## **February 18: Discourse, Power, and Conservation**

Neumann, R.P. 2004. "Nature-state-territory: Toward a Critical Theorization of Conservation Enclosures." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 195-217. London: Routledge.

### **Optional:**

Dove, M.R. 2005. "Forest Discourses in South and Southeast Asia: A Comparison with Global Discourses." In *Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia*. P. Greenough and A. Lowenhaupt Tsing, eds. Pp. 103-123. Durham: Duke University Press.

## **February 23: Governmentality**

Goldman, M. 2004. "Eco-governmentality and other Transnational Practices of a 'Green' World Bank." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 166-192. London: Routledge.

Luke, T. 1999. On Environmentality: Geo-power and Eco-knowledge in the Discourses of Contemporary Environmentalism. *Cultural Critique* 31:57-81. (NOTE: Skim this article.)

## **February 25: Community and State Frictions**

Agrawal, A., and C.C. Gibson. 2001. "The Role of Community in Natural Resource Conservation." In *Communities and the Environment: Ethnicity, Gender, and the State in Community-based Conservation*. A. Agrawal and C.C. Gibson, eds. Pp. 1-31. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

### **Optional:**

Watts, M. 2004. "Violent Environments: Petroleum Conflict and the Political Ecology of Rule in the Niger Delta, Nigeria." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 273-298. London: Routledge.

## **March 2: Environmental Justice**

Schlosberg, D. 2004. Reconceiving Environmental Justice: Global Movements and Political Theories. *Environmental Politics* 13(3): 517-540.

## **March 4: Documentary – *Litigating Disaster***

## **March 9: Industrialism, Urban Space, and Reconceptualizing Environmentalism**

Brand, P., with M.J. Thomas. 2005. "Urban Change and the Environment: Into the Twenty-First Century." In *Urban Environmentalism: Global Change and the Mediation of Local Conflict*. Pp. 1-23. New York: Routledge.

Forsyth, T. 2004. "Industrial Pollution and Social Movements in Thailand." In *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 422-438. London: Routledge.

**March 11: Exam Two**

**Group responses to EAnth due 16 March, by 14:00, softcopies only, in Word or Pages format.**