

Environment and Cultural Behavior Anthropology [ANTH] 220

Sussex County Community College, Fall, 2008

Tuesday & Thursday 3:05pm-4:20pm, Room E129

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Office (E-131) Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2-3pm, Wednesday 12-1pm & By Appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to give the student a succinct overview of the field of anthropology and how it addresses issues of human biological ecology and the ecology of human cultures. Wow!! Few topics regarding human actions are beyond the purview of anthropology and, as such, this course will discuss peoples and events from around the world as they interact with the environment. Students will be asked to use the sort of perspective employed by anthropologists and to empathize with the peoples we study.

Course Competencies

At the conclusion of this course students should demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify major research approaches for the study of human-environment interactions.
2. Explain the complexities of human-environment interactions and their environmental consequences.
3. Identify human-environment interactions from our society, non-Western cultures, and a global perspective.
4. Describe the major trends of adaptation in all human habitats and human procurement strategies.

Prerequisite: None.

Last Day for "W" Withdrawal: December 8, 2008

Last Day for "WP/WF" Withdrawal: December XX, 2008

Required Text at SCCC Bookstore

John H. Bodley (2008) Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems. 5th Edition. Lanham, NY: AltaMira Press.

Optional Ethnography Texts

Farmer, Paul (1992) AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame. Berkeley, CA: Univ. of California Press.

Knauff, Bruce (2005) The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Lansing, J. Stephen (1995) The Balinese. Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt Brace.

Smith, Jennie (2001) When The Hands Are Many: Community Organization and Social Change in Rural Haiti. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press.

Von Graeve, Bernard (1989) The Pacaá Nova: Clash of Cultures on the Brazilian Frontier. Lewiston, NY: Broadview Press.

Course Policies

Ground Rules

When students are answering questions or providing commentary we will all endeavor to not interrupt whoever is speaking and to not demean or devalue others' experiences. We will avoid using language that is offensive and that makes others feel uncomfortable. Should any student feel offended or uncomfortable about class proceedings, the student should either hold up a book, pad or piece of paper (we will deal with the issue immediately), or inform the facilitator after class-time. All personal and class discussions are held in the very strictest confidence.

Absences

Students are required to inform the instructor **before** the dates they anticipate missing class because of a **religious observance** or because they anticipate **competing in an SCCC intercollegiate athletic event**. If a student must claim a medical excuse for an absence, they must submit a **written excuse** that **clearly** indicates the **name and contact number(s) of the medical doctor** that supervised their, or their child's, treatment. Excuses for purposes of bereavement must be provided by SCCC Counselors; therefore, students should request that the SCCC Counseling Office contact the instructor in case of bereavement. Students qualifying for excused absences will discuss a plan for completing course requirements with the instructor.

Attendance Requirement

Attendance and participation are an integral part of this course. Regardless of performance on exams, quizzes, and essays, more than **four** Class Session* absences (or their equivalent) will limit the Final Grade to no more than a C+ and more than **five** Class Session absences will result in an F for the course. Late arrivals, partial absences, sleeping, inattentiveness, cell phone usage (including cell phone ringing) will be prorated absences at the discretion of the instructor. Students are urged to periodically check their absence record with the instructor.

[*One class session is 75 minutes.]

Grading

Earning a Grade

Students will accumulate points to earn the desired final grade, as per the chart below. For example, earning 74 points earns a B for the course, earning 75 points earns a B+.

<u>Final Grade</u>	<u>Minimum Points Required</u>
A	80
B+	75
B	70
C+	65
C	60
D	50
F	<50

Chapter Reports: 5 points each for a total of 40 points

All students are expected to give a Chapter Report on an **assigned portion** of each Bodley chapter. Each Report will answer following questions (if applicable):

1. What is being said?
2. What is the important terminology or vocabulary?
3. What events are being referred to?
4. What ethnic groups and/or individuals are being referred to?

Reports must be typed and double-spaced and will form the basis of class discussion. Chapter Reports are due the day each respective chapter is assigned (see Course Schedule). No reports will be accepted unless the student attends class.

Ethnography Report: 25 points

Ethnography Reports will be presented to the class on the date they are due, December 2. Reports must be typed and double-spaced **CITATIONS**. The Ethnography Report will:

1. Briefly, describe the culture, geographical setting, language, gender divisions, religious views, and local political structure. 10 points
2. How does the culture make a living? 4 points
3. What are the connections of the culture with global economic systems? 5 points
4. Describe the **social changes** or **environmental challenges** facing this culture. 6 points

Margaret Mead Film Festival: 15 points

Attend one or a series of entries to the Margaret Mead Film Festival at the American Museum of Natural History in N.Y.C. from November 14-16, 2008 and complete assignment (distributed in late October). For details go to: www.amnh.org/programs/mead/

Exams: 30 points each for a total of 60 points

There are **two** take-home essay exams as noted in the course schedule. Exams are based on information from the text, videos shown in class, and the ethnography you are reading. If you do not read an ethnography, your choice of exam questions will be restricted. Exams must be typed and double-spaced. **Only hard-copy will be accepted.** There are no make-up exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Sept 2-4

Course Introduction, Assigning Chapter Readings, Orientation to Anthropology

Week 2 Sept 9-11

Bodley Chap. 1: Anthropological Perspectives on Human Problems

Video: “Haida Gwaii”

Week 3 Sept 16-18

Bodley Chap. 2: Scale, Adaptation and the Environmental Crisis

Video: “The Waorani”

Week 4 Sept 23-25

Bodley Chap. 3: Natural Resources and the Culture of Consumption

Research-Reading Day--No Class (Sept. 25)

Week 5 Sept 30-Oct 2

Bodley Chap. 4: Malnutrition and the Evolution of Food Systems

Video: “Killing for Land”

Week 6 Oct 7-9

Mid-Term Exam Distributed

Exam Prep—No Class (Oct. 9)

Week 7 Oct 14-16

Mid-Term Exam Due October 14

Bodley Chap 5: Commercial Factory Food Systems

Video: “H-2 Workers”

Week 8 Oct 21-23

Bodley Chap. 6: The Population Problem

Research-Reading Day--No Class (Oct. 23)

Week 9 Oct 28-30

Video: “Save The Earth, Feed The World” or “Now or Never”

Bodley Chap. 7: Poverty and Conflict

Week 10 Nov 4-6

Research-Reading Day—No Class (Nov. 4, Election Day)

Videos: “The Hidden Face of Globalization” & “Mickey Mouse Goes to Haiti”

Week 11 Nov 11-13

Bodley Chap. 8: The Future

Video: “The Power To Change”

Week 12 Nov 18-20

Ethnography Prep/Reading—No Class (AAA Meetings) (Nov. 18 & Nov. 20)

Week 13 Nov 25-Dec 2

Open Catch-Up Date, Activity T.B.A. (Nov. 25)

THANKSGIVING November 27

Ethnographic Presentations/Reports Due (Dec. 2)

Week 14 Dec 4-9

Final Exam Distributed, Feast Description (Dec. 4)

Exam, Feast Prep--No Class (Dec. 9)

Week 15 Dec 11

Final Exam Due & Feast December 11

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