Anthropology 365-01
Environmental Anthropology
Spring 2010
MWF 10:50-11:50
Carnegie 105

Arjun Guneratne
Office Hours: TuTh 10:00 -11:30, M 3:30-4:30 and by appointment
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This course introduces students to the various ways in which anthropology has sought to understand human-environment relations, both from utilitarian perspectives (such as cultural ecology, ethno-ecology, and political ecology) and symbolic ones (where anthropologists have focused on the meanings people give to the non-human world). In the second half of the course, we consider how anthropology can contribute to the way we understand current environmentalist concerns and beliefs, and we conclude the course by examining the significance of the global spread of environmentalist discourse.

Required texts

Nancy Jacobs, *Environment, Power and Injustice: A South African History.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Shepard Krech, *The Ecological Indian*. New York & London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999.

Kay Milton, *Environmentalism and Cultural Theory*. London: Routledge, 1996

Assignments and Grading

12 page term paper = 40 %
Two 3 page essays on assigned books = 15 x 2 = 30%
Two in-class exams on material covered = 15 x 2 = 30%
Assignments turned in late will suffer a grade penalty.

Class format

This class will be taught as a seminar. The success of the seminar depends on your active participation and I expect that every student will have completed **all** the readings assigned for a given date prior to the class. As the reading load is at times quite heavy, you should organize your time carefully and pace yourself — don't do all the reading the night before or in the afternoon before class; this will affect the quality of your participation.

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Presentations — The organization of the class is based on presentations of the day's readings by two or more students. These presentations should not exceed 15 minutes. The purpose of the presentations is **(a)** to enable me to assess how concisely and well you can present the argument of the book or a set of readings and **(b)** to provide a springboard for our discussion of the topic. The presentation should be a **concise summary of the argument** of the reading assigned, **the issues raised by the author** and your own evaluation of it. You should conclude your presentation by posing one or two questions or problems deriving from the text that can act as a springboard for our discussion. See handout for further details.

Term paper: Each of you will write a term paper on a topic or theme related to the subject matter of this class. On February 15, you must turn in a term paper proposal of about 300 words describing the topic you intend to research, along with an **annotated** bibliography of at least **SIX printed** sources you intend to use (materials available *only* on the web may be used to supplement these materials, but not in lieu of them). If there are problems with your proposal, we will discuss alternatives. Your final paper should include a bibliography of at least **FIFTEEN printed** sources (books, book chapters, journal articles, etc). An example of a term paper proposal is on Moodle.

Exams: Exams will consist of short essays on given topics that the student will prepare beforehand and write in class. Exams WILL NOT be rescheduled so plan accordingly.

Policy on attendance

Regular attendance in class is required. More than two unexcused absences will be reflected adversely on your final grade as follows.

3-4 unexcused absences = 10 percent reduction (e.g., an A will be reduced to A-)
5-6 unexcused absences = 15 percent reduction (e.g., an A will be reduced to B+)
7-8 unexcused absences = 25 percent reduction (e.g., an A will be reduced to B)
More than 8 unexcused absences will result in no credit for the course.

Important Dates

February 15: Term paper proposal due
March 5: Essay 1 due
March 10: Mid-term Exam
April 5: Essay 2 due
May 6: Final Exam

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Class Meetings

Part I
Culture and the Environment

Monday, 1/25 Introduction to the course. No readings assigned.

Wednesday, 1/27 Milton, *Environmentalism and Cultural Theory,* Introduction and Chs. 1 and 3

Friday, 1/29 **Cultural Ecologies: Human adaptation to the environment**
Milton, *Environmentalism and Cultural Theory,* Chapter 2
Steward, "The Great Basin Shoshonean Indians: An example of a family level of sociocultural integration."
Clemmer, "Pristine aborigines or victims of progress."

Monday, 2/1 Sharp, "Steel Axes for Stone Age Australians."
Rappaport, "Ritual Regulation of environmental relations among a New Guinea People."

Wednesday, 2/3 Barth, "Ecological relationships of Ethnic Groups in Swat, North Pakistan."
Geertz, "The wet and the dry: traditional irrigation in Bali and Morocco."

Friday, 2/5 **Ethnoecologies**
Brosius, Lovelace and Marten, "Ethnoecology: An Approach to Understanding Traditional Agricultural Knowledge."
Posey, "Indigenous management of tropical forest ecosystems."
Sillitoe, "Contested Knowledge, Contingent Classification: Animals in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea."

Monday, 2/8 **Symbolic Ecologies: Environment as cultural construct**
Milton, Chapter 4. "Environmentalism and Cultural Diversity."
Bird-David, "The Giving Environment."

Wednesday, 2/10 Guest lecture in Sarah Boyer's class: "Adventures in ornithology: Transformations in a Field Science in Sri Lanka."
Class meets in OLRI 250.

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Friday, 2/12 Grove-White, "Environmentalism: A new moral discourse for technological society?"
Rodman, "Restoring Nature: Natives and Exotics."
See additional readings and links on Moodle

Monday, 2/15 **What do forests mean?**
Nightingale, "A forest community or community forestry?"
Fortier, "Where God's children live: symbolizing forests in Nepal."
Cronon, "The trouble with wilderness."

Assignment 1 due: 300 word proposal for a term paper topic.

Wednesday, 2/17 Meet in Bibliographic Instruction Room, 2nd Floor, Library.

Friday, 2/19 **The Anthropology of Landscapes**
Humphrey, "Chiefly and Shamanist Landscapes in Mongolia."
Johnson, "A Place That's Good: Gitksan Landscape Perception and Ethnoecology."
Frake, "Pleasant Places, Past Times, and Sheltered Identity in Rural East Anglia."

Monday, 2/22 Jacobs, *Environment, Power, and Injustice: A South African History*

Wednesday, 2/24 Jacobs, *Environment, Power, and Injustice: A South African History*

Friday, 2/26 Guest Lecture by Nancy Jacobs.

Monday, 3/1 **Science and the environment**
Fairhead and Leach, "False Forest History, Complicit Social Analysis."
Metz, "Downward Spiral? Interrogating narratives of environmental change in the Himalaya."

Wednesday, 3/3 **Rethinking the culture/nature dichotomy**
Viveiros de Castro, "Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism."

Friday, 3/5 **Political ecology**
Kottak, "The new ecological anthropology."
Paulson, Gezon and Watts, "Locating the political in political ecology: an introducton."

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	Essay 1 due
Monday, 3/8	Stonich & DeWalt, "The Political Ecology of Deforestation in Honduras." Greenberg, "The Political Ecology of Fisheries in the Upper Gulf of California."
Wednesday, 3/10	**Mid-term Exam**
Friday, 3/12	Haenn, "The Power of Environmental Knowledge: Ethnoecology and Environmental Conflicts in Mexican Conservation."
3/13 - 3/21	**Spring Break**

Part II
Anthropological Contributions to Environmentalism

Monday, 3/22	**Indigenous people and natural resource politics** Li, "Articulating Indigenous Identity in Indonesia: Resource politics and the tribal slot." Ellen, "Forest Knowledge, Forest Transformation" In Dove & Carpenter, *Environmental Anthropology*
Wednesday, 3/24	Brosius, "Endangered Forest, Endangered People: Environmentalist Representations of Indigenous Knowledge" Tsing, "Becoming a Tribal Elder, and other Green Development Fantasies."
Friday, 3/26	Krech, *The Ecological Indian*
Monday, 3/29	Krech, *The Ecological Indian*
Wednesday, 3/31	Responses to Krech's *The Ecological Indian*
Friday, 4/2	GOOD FRIDAY (NO CLASS)
Monday, 4/5	Video: *The Kayapo: Out of the Forest* Turner, "The Kayapo Resistance."
	Essay 2 due

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Wednesday, 4/7	**On the question of poverty, wealth and environmental degradation** Guha and Martinez-Alier, "Poverty and the Environment: A critique of the conventional wisdom." Gupta, "Peasants and Global Environmentalism."
Friday, 4/9	Video: *The Legacy of Malthus*
Monday, 4/12	Sklair, "The Culture-Ideology of Consumerism". Bodley, "Natural Resources and the Culture of Consumption" and "Poverty and Conflict in the Global Culture." (Chs. 3 and 7 of *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems*.)
Wednesday, 4/14	**Globalization, Culture and the Environment** Milton, *Environmentalism and Cultural Theory*, Chs. 5 and 6.
Friday, 4/16	NO CLASS. WORK ON YOUR PAPER.
Monday, 4/19	TBA
Wednesday, 4/21	**Eco-colonialism** Neumann, "Land, Justice, and the Politics of Conservation in Tanzania." Cox, "A Tale of two Villages: Culture, Conservation, and Ecocolonialism in Samoa." Sutherland, "The New Missionaries."
Friday, 4/23	Escobar, "Whose Knowledge, Whose nature? Biodiversity, Conservation, and the Political Ecology of Social Movements." Luke, "On Environmentality: Geo-Power and Eco-Knowledge in the Discourses of Contemporary Environmentalism."
Monday 4/26	Paper presentations
Wednesday, 4/28	Paper presentations
Friday, 4/30	Paper presentations
Monday, 5/3	Paper presentations

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