

Anthropology 3403/5403: Ecological Anthropology

Fall Term 2007

Thursdays, 6:25 – 9:05 pm, in Graham Center Room 279B

Instructor: Dr. Juliet Erazo jerazo@fiu.edu Office: 341A DM
Office hours: Monday 7:45-8:45 pm, Thursday 5:15-6:15 pm & by appointment

Course Description: Early ecological anthropologists typically studied indigenous people and their environmental practices as if they were isolated from other groups and external powers. While studies of this nature still occur, increasingly anthropologists are studying local groups and how their environmental practices and beliefs exist within larger power structures and/or have changed over time through their interactions with colonial officials, development organizations, and modern governments. Thus, much of this class will be spent thinking not only about the cultures and practices of indigenous and other local groups, but also those of development organizations, state agencies, and colonial governments. Environmental organizations and the media often portray indigenous-environment relationships in romantic or simplistic terms and two of the primary goals of this course are to strengthen our understanding of the complexity of these relationships and to understand why the romantic and simplistic portrayals are so popular with Western audiences.

Course Materials: There are three books, available for purchase at the bookstore, and several articles, which are available in the class coursepack (available for purchase for \$20 from the Sociology and Anthropology Department secretary, 334 DM Building).

Books:

Nabhan, Gary Paul. 1989. *Enduring Seeds: Native American Agriculture and Wild Plant Conservation*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Nadasdy, Paul. 2003. *Hunters and Bureaucrats: Power, Knowledge, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Southwest Yukon*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Ferguson, James. 1994. *The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Advanced Readings: Graduate Students enrolled in ANG 5403 are responsible for 4 additional books and additional writing assignments. Please see syllabus addendum.

Grading (for undergraduates):

- (1) Five pop quizzes. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will cover the readings assigned for that day. There is no way to make up a missed quiz (even if you are absent due to illness, etc.), but the lowest of the five grades will be dropped. **20 points**
(5 each, excluding lowest score)
- (2) Three essay exams. These will be take-home exams, consisting of 1-3 questions that will ask you to integrate what you have learned from lecture, discussion, and the readings in essay format. **60 points**
(20 each)
- (3) Group exercise. This is a term project in which you will work with 2-3 others in the class. You will select a local group from anywhere in the world that is struggling to gain/regain control of a place or territory. Early in the semester, you should do preliminary research using the internet and/or ethnographic materials from the library. As the semester proceeds, think about what the group has in common with others that we discuss. Can theoretical concepts from lecture and the readings be applied to improve our understanding of what is occurring in their situation? Some time will be given to you periodically during the semester to meet as a group and discuss progress, but you will most likely also need to communicate outside of class. **20 points**
- (4) Participation. It is expected that you will be present and alert in class. Any deviance from this can cause you to lose up to five points from those earned in the three categories described above. Exceptional participation (contributing comments and questions that demonstrate that you have done the reading and thought about it, can earn you up to 5 “extra credit” points. If you do miss class, the first place to check is the WebCT site at <http://webct.fiu.edu>. There, I will post lecture materials, in-class exercises, essay exams and your grades. The syllabus that is posted on the WebCT site will also be kept up-to-date, so you can check there to see if you have missed a film and for information as to how you can see the film on your own time. **-5 to 5 extra credit points**

COURSE OUTLINE:

August 30: Introduction to Course, Review of Syllabus and Expectations, and Setting the Stage -- What is at stake in understanding the relationships between different cultures and the environments in which they exist?

UNIT 1: CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

September 6: Crop Diversity, Past and Present

Enduring Seeds book:

Forward to First Edition

Prologue

Chapter 1 (sections IV, V, and VI only)

Chapters 2-4

September 13: Place and Cultured Landscapes

Enduring Seeds book:

Chapters 5-8

30 MINUTES OF IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS

Graduate student presentation on *Wisdom Sits in Places*

September 20: The Green Revolution and Capitalist Pressures on Agricultural Practices

Enduring Seeds book:

Chapters 9-12

Film: *Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Sorrow*: videorecording / a Media Workshop production for BBC Television in association with Television Trust for the Environment and the One World Group of Broadcasters ; a film by Manjira Datta. (Bullfrog films)

If you miss class, the VHS tape is on reserve in the Green Library at the Sound and Image Resources desk on the 5th Floor -- HD2075.P8 S43 1992

UNIT 2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S ENVIRONMENTAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN NATION-STATES

September 27: Some Western Understandings of the Relationship between Culture and Environment (from both science and popular culture)

Hunters and Bureaucrats, Introduction and Chapter 1 ***Note: pp. 3-12 will be reviewed in class – read it, but don't get too hung up on it***

*******Monday, October 1, 4:30pm: FIRST ESSAY EXAM DUE*******

October 4: Indigenous versus State Knowledge and Practices

Hunters and Bureaucrats, Chapters 2 and 3

30 MINUTES OF IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS

Graduate student presentation on *Reverse Anthropology*

October 11: Knowledge Integration and Co-management in Practice

Hunters and Bureaucrats, Chapters 4 and 5

In Class -- Film: *The Goddess and the Computer*, by J. Stephen Lansing and Andre Singer. 2007, Documentary Educational Resources.

October 18: Tragedy of the commons? Or community solutions to conservation?

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162: 1243-1248.

Hunters and Bureaucrats, Chapter 6 & Conclusion

UNIT 3: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND CONSERVATION

October 25: The Cultures of International Development Organizations

The Anti-Politics Machine

Preface

Chapter 1 (page 3 – top half of page 9 only)

Chapter 2 & 3 (pp. 25-88)

30 MINUTES OF IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS

Graduate student presentation on *Environmentality*

*******Monday, October 29, 4:30pm: SECOND ESSAY EXAM DUE*******

November 1: Rationality as cultural construct

The Anti-Politics Machine, Chapter 5-6

Short film (14 minutes): *Water and Autonomy*. Chiapas Media Project.

November 8: Tensions between resident communities and environmental organizations

Chapin, Mac. 2004. A Challenge to Conservationists. *World Watch* (Magazine of the World Watch Institute, Washington, DC), November-December 2004: 17-31.

Conklin, Beth A. and Laura Graham. 1995. The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-Politics. *American Anthropologist* 97: 695-710.

Chernela, Janet. 2005. The Politics of Mediation: Local-Global Interactions in the Central Amazon of Brazil. *American Anthropologist* 107: 620-631.

November 15: Racial Stereotypes and Doomed Development

Ramos, Alcida Rita. 1998. Chapter 1 (“Keywords for Prejudice”) of Indigenism: Ethnic Politics in Brazil. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. Pp. 13-60.

Graduate Student Presentation on *The Intemperate Rainforest*

November 22: THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS.

November 29: IN-CLASS FILM and ASSOCIATED QUIZ (I will be away at a conference).

Film: *Amazon Journal*. Producer/Director Geoffrey O’Connor. A Production of Realis Pictures, Inc.

IN-CLASS TIME TO FINALIZE YOUR PRESENTATIONS FOR NEXT WEEK.

*******Wednesday, December 5, 4:30pm: THIRD ESSAY EXAM DUE*******

December 6: Brief Reports of Group Projects; Evaluations and Wrap-up