

**Environmental Anthropology**  
**ANTH 4400/5400**  
**Fall 2016**



**Class Sessions:** Th 6:00-8:50 PM

**Professor:** Dr. Adam Dunstan

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**Office:** Chilton Hall 330G

**Office Hours:** M 10-11:30, T 12:30-1:50, and by appt.

“Although it may seem counterintuitive that the foremost influences on the success of *environmental* policy could be *social*...conservation policies and practices are inherently social phenomena,” Michael Mascia et al.

### **Course Description**

Humanity faces environmental problems ranging from drought and the degradation of farmlands to global climate change and a major extinction crisis. While the “environment” is often treated as whatever is not human, the environmental crisis we face is a human crisis – one which can only be understood if we understand the cultural and social forces which have influenced, and are influenced by, the nonhuman world. Within ecological anthropology – the study of humans and the environment – environmental anthropology refers specifically to an applied approach of using the theories and methods of anthropology to understand and tackle real-world environmental problems. In this course we explore anthropological theories about the environment, various models for conceptualizing environmental ethics, and the ways in which cultural anthropology can shed light on, and sometimes present solutions for, present-day environmental realities. In addition, we will gain practical experience designing and implementing a research project on a local environmental issue. Ultimately the goal of this course is to facilitate students’ training as environmental anthropologists capable of addressing the complex and pressing environmental crises we face.

### **About the Professor**

I am a cultural anthropologist with an additional background in environmental science. I have done research since 2009 on environmental issues across the United States, especially those relating to water and environmental justice. My foremost theoretical interests include indigenous knowledge, the social construction of landscape, and sacred ecology. In addition, I am also involved in environmental/anthropological consulting.

## Course Objectives

- Students will comprehend major theoretical perspectives in environmental/ecological anthropology and be able to apply these theories and methods to real-world natural resource problems.
- Students will come to comprehend the complex social, political, and cultural factors affecting present-day environmental issues.
- Students will gain familiarity and skill with environmental and ecological anthropology theories and methods.
- Students will gain practical experience in designing, implementing, and completing a community-based environmental anthropology project which will facilitate their future careers.

## Assigned Texts

- Kopnina, Helen and Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, *Environmental Anthropology Today* (Routledge, 2011).
- Townsend, Patricia, *Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Waveland Press, Inc., 2011).
- All other readings will be made available through Blackboard.

## Assignments

- **Discussion:** Students are expected to regularly attend class and participate in discussions, having completed the assigned readings. The professor will track students' participation and assign them grades accordingly. Missing more than 1-2 classes will affect your discussion score negatively.
- **Phase 2 Outline:** On 10/06/16, students will use the class period to, with their assigned groups, develop an outline in preparation for the surveys, which will include: (1) locations at which to administer surveys and (2) 20 possible questions for the surveys, based on their interview findings, and (3) Plans for ARM research.. This is a group assignment. **Due: 10/06/16 by end of class.**
- **Midterm Exam:** On 10/13/16 students will take a midterm examination, consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. **Date: 10/13/16 in class.**
- **Project Portfolio:** On 11/21/2016 students will meet with the professor during office hours to turn in and present a portfolio displaying work done for the class project on mass transit. Additional details and a rubric will be provided in class. **Due: 11/21/16.**
- **ARM Report:** On 11/21/2016 students will turn in, as a group, reports on research undertaken as a group. Additional details and a rubric will be provided in class. **Due: 11/21/16.**
- **Take-home Final:** Students will receive a take home final that will be submitted by email on 12/15/16 by 6:00 PM. It will be multiple choice and essay based. **Due: 12/15/16 by 6:00 PM CST.**

## Grading

**Scale:** 900-1000 A / 800-899 B / 700-799 C / 600-690 D / 0-590 F

## Grade Components

Discussion.....	100 Points
Phase 2 Outline.....	50 Points
Midterm.....	250 Points
Project Portfolio.....	300 Points
ARM Report*.....	150 Points
Take-home Final.....	150 Points

\*Signifies a component of grade turned in as a group

**Note to Graduate Students:** This is a cross-listed graduate/upper-level undergraduate course. On occasion graduate students will have an extra reading, listed on the schedule as "GRAD", which are designed to introduce you to higher-level theory and/or methodologies applicable to your career paths. In addition, graduate students are expected to (1) regularly take part in discussion and (2) act as leaders of their respective research teams, as described in class.

## Course Policies

**Withdrawal:** If you are unable to complete this course, you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F”.

**Attendance:** Missing more than two classes will affect your discussion score, in addition to otherwise detracting from your success.

**Extra Credit:** The professor will notify you of any extra credit opportunities, which will apply to the entire class.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu). In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” includes:

Being respectful of others’ thoughts, experiences, opinions, and perspectives.

Arriving to class on time.

No usage of electronics unless directed by the instructor.

Refraining from engaging in side-conversations.

Giving every student a chance to participate by not dominating discussions.

**Contacting the Professor:** Please feel free to come by office hours for assistance. Otherwise, email is the best way to get in touch with me outside of class: adam.dunstan@unt.edu. In the email, you must indicate your course and full name to facilitate my response, and must also use your official UNT email, not a private email. Understand that I have hundreds of students and may not respond immediately. However, if I have not responded within 48 hours, feel free to email me to make sure I have received your email.

**Do Not Miss Essays or Exams:** If you have a conflict with any due date, presentation date, or exam date, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements ahead of time – NOT the week of the due date. Students may NOT take exams late or do presentations late unless there is written permission from the instructor. Allowing alternative arrangements is up to the discretion of the instructor.

**Late Work:** Unexcused submissions of late work will incur a 20% loss of points per calendar day, including the day the assignment was due.

**Academic Misconduct:** The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should be cited. For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

**ADA:** The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual’s disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class. In such cases, please make sure to obtain documentation through the Office of Disability Accommodation.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
09/01	(Human) Nature; <i>Project Workshop: Introduction</i>	Town. Chs. 2-4; K&S Introduction (Pp. 1-21)	
09/08	Environmental Ethics and Worldviews; <i>Project Workshop: Interview Training</i>	K&S Ch. 2; Greider and Garkovich Reading (BB)	
09/15	Inconvenient Truths: Climate Change and Energy Politics	Town. Ch. 8; K&S Ch. 13	
09/22	Pollution & Public Health	K&S Ch. 7	
09/29	Water (is Life). <i>Project Workshop: Survey Logic/Research Design</i>	Williams Reading (BB); Trawick Reading (BB); GRAD: Zloniski Reading (BB)	
10/06	You are What You Eat: Food and Agriculture. <i>Project Workshop: Survey Preparation</i>	Town. Ch. 6; K&S Ch. 11	<b>Phase 2 Outline</b>
10/13	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		<b>Midterm Exam</b>
10/20	Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity. <i>Project Workshop: Advanced Research Methods</i>	Town. Chs. 11 & 12; K&S Ch. 9	
10/27	Wildlife Continued: Human-Animal Interactions	No reading.	
11/03	Spiritual Ecology and Sacred Lands	Town. Ch. 9; K&S Ch. 1	
11/10	Sustainable Development and Traditional Ecological Knowledge	K&S Ch. 10; Berkes Reading (BB)	
11/17	<b>No Class; Prepare for Project Portfolio Meetings and ARM Report</b>	30 Min. Video Lecture by Dr. Dunstan (BB) on Project Analysis & Write-up	
11/21	<b>No Class on Thursday due to Thanksgiving; meet with professor during office hours on Monday or by appt.</b>		<u><b>11/21: Project Portfolio Due</b></u> <u><b>11/21: ARM Report Due</b></u>
12/01	Who's to Blame? Population and Consumption	Town. Chs. 10 & 12; Pearce Reading (BB); GRAD: K&S Ch. 5	
12/07	Environmental Policy and Activism: Routes of Action. <i>Project Workshop: Conclusions &amp; Outreach</i>	Town Ch. 12; K&S Ch. 3; Rademacher Reading (BB)	<b>12/15: Take-home Final Due (6:00 PM)</b>

**A NOTE ON THE SCHEDULE:** The schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion; please check your email, check Blackboard, and attend class regularly to be apprised of any changes.

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<sup>i</sup> Image Credit: <http://www.eoearth.org/images/144082/350x0/scale/>