

Environmental Anthropology

ANTH 4400

Fall 2017

Class Sessions: W 2:00-4:50 PM, Wh 117

Professor: Dr. Adam Dunstan

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Office Hours: T 10 AM -12 PM and by appt.

Course Description

While the “environment” is commonly treated as whatever is not human, the environmental crisis we face is a human crisis – one which can only be understood if we analyze the sociocultural factors which have influenced, and are influenced by, our ecological contexts. Environmental anthropology involves the study of humans and their multitudinous relationships to their environment, as well as the use of the perspectives and methods of anthropology to provide insight into, and grapple with, environmental problems. In this course we explore anthropological approaches to the environment 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 individuals capable of addressing the complex and pressing environmental crises we face.

About the Professor

Dr. Adam Dunstan is a cultural anthropologist whose specializations include environmental activism, sacred ecology, social/discursive constructions of the environment, and environmental policy. His longest-running research examines cultural and intercultural dynamics of efforts to resist ski resort development on an indigenous sacred mountain, the San Francisco Peaks. He has also consulted on environmental pollution and related issues.

Required Texts

1. Townsend, *Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies*, 2nd Edition (Waveland Press, Inc., 2011). (T)
2. Haenn, Wilk, and Harnish, *The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living*, 2nd edition (New York University Press, 2016). (HWH)
3. All other readings will be made available through Blackboard. (BB)

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Learning Objectives	Related Assignment
1. Students will identify sociocultural, discursive, and political-economic factors related to human usage of the environment	Discussion; Exams
2. Students will identify, use, and evaluate major analytical perspectives within environmental anthropology	Discussion; Exams
3. Students will use these anthropological perspectives to analyze real-world environmental issues	Website; Discussion
4. Students will produce ethnographic research on environmental values and perceptions through a community-based project	Class Research Project

Assignments

Discussion: Students are expected to regularly attend class and contribute meaningfully and insightfully to discussions, showing clear evidence of having completed and engaged with the assigned readings.

Self-Reflection: Students will submit through Blackboard a 1 page (single-spaced) summary of (1) their interests related to environmental anthropology, (2) their goals with this course, (3) their familiarity with anthropology, and (4) their previous experience with ethnographic research. **Due: 09/06/2017, 2:00 PM CST.**

Website Outline: Students will submit through Blackboard a 1-page (single-spaced) outline over the subject of their proposed website, with at least three applicable sources cited. Additional details will be provided in class. **Due: 09/20/2017, 2:00 PM CST.**

Class Research Project: Each individual student will contribute research as part of a community-based class project. Individually, you will turn in two items related to this research:

Interview Transcriptions: Each student will conduct two interviews and upload transcripts and audio recordings of these interviews via Blackboard. **Due: 10/04/2017, 2:00 PM CST.**

Research Report: Each student will analyze these interviews, conduct additional research, and then develop a synthetic report based upon their research, submitted via Blackboard. Additional details will be provided in class. **Due: 10/25/2017, 2:00 PM CST.**

Midterm Exam: Students will take an in-class midterm. **Date: 10/11/2017.**

Website Project: Each student will develop a website presenting research and anthropological analysis on a specific environmental problem. Additional details will be provided in class. **Due: 11/15/2017, 2:00 PM CST.**

Final Exam: Students will complete a cumulative take-home final, turned in via Blackboard. **Due: 12/13/2017, 5:00 PM CST.**

Grade Composition

Discussion.....	100 Points
Self-Reflection.....	20 Points
Website Outline.....	30 Points
Interview Transcriptions.....	50 Points
Research Report.....	200 Points
Midterm Exam.....	200 Points
Website.....	200 Points
<u>Final Exam.....</u>	<u>200 Points</u>
TOTAL.....	1000 Points

Grading Scale

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

Course Policies

1. 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”.

2. Attendance: Missing more than two classes will negatively impact your discussion score, in addition to detracting from your learning of the material.

3. Extra Credit: The professor will notify the class of any extra credit opportunities.

4. 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. In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” includes:

- Being respectful of others’ thoughts, experiences, opinions, and perspectives.
- Giving every student a chance to participate by not dominating discussions.
- Arriving to, and leaving, class on time.
- Refraining from electronics unless related to class learning.
- Refraining from engaging in side-conversations.

5. 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. Please 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.

6. Do Not Miss Essays or Exams: If you have a conflict with any due date or exam date, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements ahead of time – not the week of the due date, and not after the fact. Students may not take exams late unless there is written permission from the instructor. Allowing alternative arrangements is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you have missed an exam or other major assignment due to a medical emergency or university-documented emergency, you will need to provide documentation, and alternative arrangements are, again, at professor discretion.

7. Late Work: Unexcused submissions of late work will incur a 10% loss of points per calendar day. Late work must be excused prior to the fact, unless in cases of documented medical emergency or other documented university emergency, in which case documentation must be provided and alternative arrangements are at the professor's discretion.

8. 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. 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/>. 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.

9. 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. The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	Unit 1: Roots		
08/30	Introduction to Environmental Anthropology	T: Ch 1 HWH: Pp. 1-8 BB: Crutzen, "The Anthropocene"	
09/06	Theoretical Foundations	T: Chs. 2-4 HWH: Ch 1, 5, 34	Self-Reflection (2:00 PM CST)
09/13	Ethics, Worldviews, and Spiritual Ecology	T: Ch. 9 HWH: Ch. 6 BB: Sponsel, "Spiritual Ecology" BB: Greider and Garkovich, "Landscapes"	
	Unit 2: Branches		
09/20	Environmental Justice	T: Ch 7 HWH Chs. 15, 27 BB: Singer, "Down Cancer Alley"	Website Outline (2:00 PM CST)
09/27	Climate Change and Energy Politics	T: Ch. 8 HWH: Chs. 21, 22 BB: Ives, "Uprooting 'Indigeneity' in South Africa's Western Cape" BB: Hughes, "Climate Change and the Victim Slot"	
10/04	Interview Data Analysis	No reading	Interview Transcripts (2:00 PM CST)
10/11	Food Sustainability	T: Ch. 5, 6 HWH: Chs. 13, 35	Midterm Exam
10/18	Consumption and Population	T: Chs. 10, 13 HWH: Chs. 9, 11, 20 BB: Pearce, "Consumption Dwarfs Population"	
10/25	Interview	No reading	Research Report (2:00 PM CST)

	Collaborative Synthesis		
	Unit 3: Leaves		
11/01	Sustainable Development and Land Conservation	T: Ch. 12 HWH: Chs. 3, 31, 36	
11/08	Biodiversity and Multispecies Ethnography	T: Ch. 11 HWH: Chs. 8, 33 BB: Singleton, "Love-iathan, the Meat-whale and Hidden People"	
11/15	Website Sharing	No Reading	Website Project (2:00 PM CST)
11/22	Environmental Policy and Resistance	HWH: Ch. 28 BB: Larsen, "Environmental Politics and Policy Ambiguities in Environmental Anthropology"	
11/29	Careers in Environmental Anthropology	HWH: Ch. 41	
12/06	Conclusions	BB: Williams, "A River Runs Through Us"	
12/11			12/11: Take-home Final (5:00 PM, CST)

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