

# F21, Environmental Anthropology

Edit

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Office hours: after class

## Course Description

This course explores the myriad of ways that people are connected to and through their environments.

We'll be looking at the ways that people impact the planet and each other through the management of place and space over time. We'll study environmental knowledge and epistemologies.

A few examples of topics we'll be covering are the health impacts of environmental contamination across generations, the history and development of borders, issues surrounding conservation, and the teleconnected ways we exist with environmental phenomena across the entire planet.

Everything we study in this class will be grounded in real-world examples: we will engage with multi-modal ethnographies in text, film, podcasts and new media.

## Course Objectives

- Develop a complex understanding of human-environment relationships
- Practice applying various analytical frames to grounded world issues
- Conceptualize issues on multiple scalar levels: from planetary atmospheric concerns to the individual ingestion of environmental contaminants
- Sharpen critical thinking skills and practice talking about tough materials, while problem-solving respectfully with classmates

While there are no prerequisites for this class, it is an upper-division (and for those enrolled in 5400, graduate-level) course and we will be diving deeply into theories and methods in socio-cultural anthropology. I say this not to shake you, but to assure you that if the materials or pace of the class feel challenging, please come see me during office hours, or by appointment, and I would be happy to help, explain, and think with you! My goal is to design classes in which everyone who wants to do well can do well, so communicate early and often!

# Grading

1. In-class activities and participation (20)
2. Weekly reading reflection papers (30)
3. Midterm exam (25)
4. Final exam (25)

## ***In-class Activities and Participation: (20)***

Students are required to be active participants in the class. This means doing all of the readings ahead of time, participating in our group discussions, completing in-class activities, and being a considerate and respectful member of our class.

## ***Reflection Papers (30 points total)***

**BEGINNING WEEK 2:** To prepare for every discussion, students will write brief reflection papers (2-3 pages) on the materials assigned. They will be due on Mondays, on the materials for the week ahead, by 11:59 pm.

This assignment is not intended to be busywork, but rather it is designed to help you think about the readings as we go, pull important quotes, and prepare you for class discussion. It will also help you on your exams which will be open-note and open-book. Your reflection papers should:

- Explain the major arguments of each author assigned
- Identify a quote or passage from any one of the readings you personally find interesting and explain why
- Find common themes between the readings for the week (and possibly connect them to earlier weeks, if you so desire). This is a chance to theorize why we might be reading these pieces together.
- Please structure your reflections like a short essay and avoid bullet points.

Feel free to personally reflect on the topics, to make connections that you think are interesting with other course material, to connect course content with happenings in the world around us right now, etc.

This doesn't have to be a beautifully written document, it should just serve to help you organize your thoughts, and demonstrate that you have done the work for the week.

## ***Exams (25 points each, 50 points total)***

There will be two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. Elements will include multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

***Additional Policies:***

*Late Work:* Late work is not accepted. If you believe you will have difficulty attending classes, turning in assignments, or generally making progress in the course, please contact me in advance.

*Sh\*t Happens:* That being said, I have a *Sh\*t Happens* policy that can apply for up to two of your response papers allowing you a 48-hour extension, no questions asked. You do not need to explain anything to me, or provide documentation, just let me know you are cashing in on them in advance so you don't lose points. These cannot be applied retroactively, unless in extreme cases.

*Course Readings:* **All** readings are available to you on the course website. To make the course more accessible, you are not required to purchase any textbooks.

*Grade Breakdown:*

A+	99-100
A	93-98
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D+	68-69
D	63-67
D-	60-62
F	<59