# Environmental Anthropology ANTH 5400

**Fall 2018**

**Class Sessions:** T/Th 3:30-5:00 Col 047

**Professor:** Dr. Adam Dunstan **Email:** [adam.dunstan@unt.edu](mailto:adam.dunstan@unt.edu) **Phone:** (940) 565-2170

**Office:** 330G Chilton Hall

**Office Hours:** T/Th 1-2 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 suggest insight into solutions for, contemporary environmental crises and challenges. 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’ development as individuals capable of addressing the complex and pressing environmental crises we face.

## About the Professor

Dr. Adam Dunstan is an environmental anthropologist whose specializations include environmental policy, sacred ecology, and discursive constructions of the environment. His longest-running research project examines the intercultural dynamics of conflict over an indigenous sacred mountain, the San Francisco Peaks. Currently he conducts research on perceptions of air quality and environmental health in North Texas. He also consults on environmental and cultural topics.

## Required Texts

1. Townsend, *Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies*, 3nd Edition (Waveland Press, Inc., 2018). (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 Canvas. (CN)

## Learning Objectives and Outcomes

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| Learning Objectives | Related Assignment |
| **1.** Students will identify sociocultural, discursive, and political-economic factors related to human interactions with the environment from an anthropological perspective | 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 Project; Discussion |
| **4.** Students will produce ethnographic research on environmental values and perceptions | Interview Project |

**Assignments**

**Discussion Participation (200 Points):** 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 (25 Points):** Students will submit a 1 page (single-spaced) summary of (1) their interests related to the environment and environmental anthropology, (2) at least three personal learning goals for this course, and (3) their previous experience with anthropology and with ethnographic research. **Due: 09/04/2018, midnight (CST).**

**Interview Project (250 Points):** Each individual student will contribute research as part of a community-based class project. Students will conduct two interviews. Then, students will analyze these interviews, conduct additional research, and develop a synthetic report based upon their research. They will also submit their coded transcripts. Additional details will be provided in class. **Due: 10/02/2018, 2:00 PM CST.**

**Website Outline (25 Points):** Students will submit a 1-page (single-spaced) outline over the subject of their proposed website, with at least three applicable sources cited. **Due: 09/20/2018, midnight (CST).**

**Website Project (200 Points):** 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.**

**Essays (300 Points):** Instead of tests, graduate students will submit two reflections based upon the course topics and readings. Additional details will be provided in class.

Essay 1 **Date: 10/16/18, midnight (CST).**

Essay 2 **Date: 12/11/2018, midnight (CST).**

\*Note: Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are submitted through Canvas.

## Grade Composition

Discussion……………………..200 Points Self-Reflection..…………………25 Points Website Outline………………....25 Points Interview Project…………..........250 Points Essay 1….…....………………..150 Points Website Project.……………….200 Points Essay 2….……………………...150 Points 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 foun[d at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu/) In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” includes (but is not limited to):

Behaving in a respectful manner towards others’ thoughts, experiences, and perspectives.

Not dominating discussions, to allow all to participate.

Refraining from engaging in side-conversations.

Arriving to class on time.

No usage of electronics unless directed by the instructor.

1. **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.](mailto: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 may not respond immediately; however, if I have not responded within 24 hours (72 on the weekends or holidays), please feel free to email me to confirm I have received your email. Also bear in mind that I generally do not answer emails received after usual business hours (i.e. after 5 PM) until the next day.

1. **Due Dates:** If you have a conflict with any due date or test date, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements ahead of time – not the week of the due date, and **not** after the fact. Allowing alternative arrangements is up to the discretion of the instructor. Students may not take exams late unless there is written permission from the instructor. In cases of missed deadlines due to medical or other emergencies, I reserve the right to ask for documentation as a general procedure.
2. **Discussion Participation:** Students are expected to arrive in class having completed the required readings and ready to discuss them (including if called upon).
3. **Technical Issues:** For work submitted online, students should immediately report any technical problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk ([helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu), 940.565.2324). In the event of unexpected server outage or unusual technical difficulty which prevents the class from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor reserves the right to extend deadlines/time windows and provide any other appropriate accommodations.
4. **Deadlines and Changes to the 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.
5. **Late Work:** Unexcused submissions of late work will incur a 10% loss of points per calendar day. Quizzes may not be turned in late. 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.
6. **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/.](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.
7. **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/.](http://disability.unt.edu/) You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.