

Anthropology 143

Code 47453

Culture and Adaptation

Tues/Thurs 12:00-1:15

204 Clark Hall

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Office Hours: T/Th 1:30-2:30
Wed 12:00-3:00 or by appointment.
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Introduction: This upper division course combines the analytical approaches of anthropology, archaeology, and geography with environmental science, exploring critical issues of human ecology in terms of resource exploitation and cultural adaptations to environmental change. While tracing the origins of human interaction with the environment, we will also examine the complex interactions that evolved among various human societies, and the historical trajectories of adaptive strategies for survival as practiced among traditional societies. We will investigate resource competition, especially for water. The processes and stresses that shaped the past as evidenced by archaeology will be shown to be active in the present. Stresses of modern globalization will be contextualized within environmental dynamics.

The objective of this course is to give students a broad understanding of key social and cultural processes affecting human development, and a detailed understanding of the connection between human behavior and environmental change. Readings, case studies, small-group in-class projects, and discussion are aimed at enhancing critical thinking skills and fostering classroom debate.

Required Texts:

- ***Human Adaptive Strategies* (2005) 3rd edition. Daniel Bates. McGraw Hill.**
 - ***The Archaeology of Environmental Change* (2009) Fisher, Hill and Feinman, eds. Arizona.**
- Selected articles on related topics will also be used (provided as downloadable pdf documents from my faculty webpage). These will be relevant to case studies.

Highly recommended:

- Elements of Style: A Manual for Writers. Kate Turabian, any edition will do but the Seventh has the latest on website references. Elements may also be found on-line.

Objectives

- Broad understanding of research in human cultural evolution, critical issues in environmental change, and the evidence from archaeological research.
- In depth understanding of the archaeological theories concerning human adaptations links between human behavior and environment.
- Understanding of the scientific basis for theories of climate change and global warming.
- Broad understanding of the role of archaeological sciences in environmental issues past and present.
- Recognition of the important role environment plays in modern nationalism, social identity, and political ideology.

Outcomes

- Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing behavioral/environmental evidence.
- Students will become acquainted with professional resource materials relevant to specific topics covered by the course through independent research projects.

- Students will have opportunities to develop and enhance writing skills through feedback and editing. Students will be able to relate their own local, regional, and national behaviors to the issues addressed during the course.
- Students will significantly enhance personal geographic knowledge.
- Students will come to clarify and articulate their own position (supported by data) on critical issues of culture and environment.

Major Themes	Readings	Assessments
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Unit One: Human Adaptive Systems

Week One Aug 25

Setting the stage:
Conceptual mapping

Week Two Aug 30, Sept 1

The study of human behavior
Cultural relativism
Evolution and adaptation
Ecological systems

Bates chapter 1
Fisher chp 2 (van der Leeu)

Week Three Sept 6, 8

Ecology and Politics
Power and resources
Cultural strategies for survival
Ecosystems; human intervention

Bates chapter 2

Week Four Sept 13, 15

Cultural evolution
Procurement systems
Settlement systems
Foraging and foragers

Bates chapter 3
Fisher chp 9 (Bar-Yosef)

Week Five Sept 20, 22

Agricultural development
Subsistence strategies
Ecosystems
Origins of agriculture

Bates chapter 4
Fischer chp 4, 5 (Jones; Thurston)

Week Six Sept 27, 29

Geographic knowledge
Geo-economics

Week Seven Oct 4, 6

Changing economies
Nomadism
Pastoralism
Social organization
Resources and power

Bates chapter 5
Fisher chp 6 (Kusimba)

Summary 1

Unit Two: Food Production and Repercussions of the Green Revolution

Week Eight Oct 11, 13

Intensive agriculture
Agro-industrialism
Economic "zonation"

Bates chapter 6
Fisher chp 7 (Hill)

Week Nine Oct 18, 20

Cases

Fall 2011

Week Ten Oct 25, 27

Global warming, climate change
Demographic future
Water developments

Week Eleven Nov 1, 3

The industrial world
Resources and power
Demographics

**Unit Three: Social complexities for Adaptive Behavior
in a Changing Environment**

Week Twelve Nov 8, 10

Traditional societies and change

Summary 2

Week Thirteen Nov 15, 17

Development & long range repercussions Bates chapter 7-8
Poverty revisited
Globalism

Week Fourteen Nov 22 (Thanksgiving 24)

Water Fisher chp 3, 11 (Scarborough; Ravesloot, et all)

Week Fifteen Nov 29, Dec 1

Water wars selected readings pdf

Week Sixteen Dec 6, 8

Water futures

Final exams week

Final Exam

Assessments:

To receive a passing grade in this class you must complete and submit 75% of assignments and complete the final exam.

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. These will be in the form of short strategic essays and objective qualifiers. The final exam is comprehensive, covering all course material, but with emphasis on the latter part of the course. A series of Atlas assignments has been designed to enhance students' proficiency with the global geography associated with the topics under discussion. Additionally, you will complete two Synthesis position papers (5-6 pages) concentrating on a major theme covered during this course. Several in-class case studies during the semester will concisely focus on critical issues of cultural adaptation and will be examined in small discussion groups. These varied and integrated assessments are intended to provide you several avenues for demonstrating mastery of course content and competence with relevant issues based on your personal strengths and interests. The objective is to help you articulate clear positions of relevance to the modern changing world.

Mid term exam(50 points)

1 Final exam 100 points

2 Summary papers (25 pts each)

Case studies (50 participation pts)

Total: 250 pts

Grades will be based on score percentages. 92-100% 4.0; 87-91% 3.5; 80-86% 3.0; 73-79% 2.5; 68-72% 2.0; 60-67% 1.5; 55-59% 1.0; <55% 0.0

Policies:

- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments to discuss topics of interest.
- The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester.
- All lectures are copyrighted. The use of recording equipment of any kind; tape, film, or digital, is forbidden without written consent from the instructor. This is not usually a problem. Students must agree not to use lectures in unauthorized formats or non-educational purposes.
- **Assignments will not be accepted by email or after the last scheduled class.**
- **Late assignments will be given a one class-day grace period with a 20% deduction.**
- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Although no formal role will be taken, informal attendance records will be monitored. Students should expect to actively participate individually and through group work, discussions, as well in Q&A sessions. Discussions of controversial topics can occasionally become emotional. Such discussions demand respect and intellectual honesty toward fellow students, instructor, and from instructor toward students. The goal is to foster an atmosphere safe for the free exchange of ideas.
- Missed exams may be made-up if a student provides appropriate documentation for legitimate cause for missing scheduled exam dates (funeral, medical emergency, family crisis; *per university policy*). *Make-up exams will be by scheduled appointment in my office and will include oral discussion section.* Late research papers will be deducted 25pts/week. Late assignments will be reduced by 10%.
- You may not leave the room during an examination. This will be interpreted by the instructor that the student has finished and the exam will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- Exam dates will not be altered. *If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam date please make arrangements at least four weeks in advance.*
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, but will consult with the class first.
- To receive a grade for this course you must complete and submit all assignments.*
- *Extra credit assignments will not be provided if a student is missing any regular assignments. There is enough to do already.*
- Academic integrity and ethics will be upheld at all times. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to attend class. Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success.
- All lectures are copyrighted. The use of recording equipment of any kind; tape, film, or digital, is forbidden without written consent from the instructor. This is not usually a problem. Students must agree not to use lectures in unauthorized formats or non-educational purposes.
- **Please turn off your cell phones as a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and the instructor. Zero tolerance for texting during lecture.**

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments.

To earn an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, effort at conceptual synthesis, and originality. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments must be of consistently high quality in terms of content and execution. Examinations will score in the range of 90% and above. Projects complete, original, or innovative.

To earn a B: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general comprehension of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful analysis and effort should be made at conceptual synthesis. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit very few writing problems. Assignments must be of good

quality in terms of content and conform to standards appropriate to the discipline. Exams may score in the 80% and above range. Projects completed and original or innovative.

To earn a C: At least 80% of assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general understanding of critical content. Knowledge of basic conceptual material should be demonstrated. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful effort with few errors in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score in the 75% and above range. Final project completed at average level of competence.

To earn a D: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete more than 70% of assignments. Only basic knowledge of conceptual material demonstrated. Critical analysis not exhibited, suggesting minimal effort by student.. Assignments lack careful or thoughtful effort and several errors in content. Failure to achieve seminar responsibilities or barely acceptable effort. Minimal engagement in class projects. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards ignored. Exams score below 75% range. Projects completed below standards.

To earn an F: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 50% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. No evidence of general skills or course content provided. Assignments will exhibit a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and errors will be evident in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score below the 60% range. Projects incomplete or late. Or, failure to take the final exam.

Grade I: Special circumstances. In keeping with university policy you may not receive a Incomplete to avoid an F grade. Failure to complete and submit specific assignments or missing the final owing to extraordinary circumstances (documented per university policy). Removing the I for a letter grade will require an additional project at instructor's discretion and/or completion of missing work.