

Env. S. 117 Human Ecology  
Spring 2006; Fridays 1200-1445  
Room: BBC 105; Code: 27257

Dr. Gary A. Klee

## SYLLABUS

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Diversity and similarity of *human adaptation, cultural evolution, cultural change, and environmental modification* in African, Asiatic, Oceanic, and Latin American cultural groups. Emphasis: Traditional non-western conservation practices and their lessons for the modern-day resource manager. Prerequisites: EnvS 01, 10, & 100W, or instructor consent. (3 units).

**DEFINITION OF HUMAN ECOLOGY:** Human Ecology is the *interdisciplinary* study of the relationships between the human community and its environment. It *crosses traditional academic and scientific boundaries* and represents attempts to integrate scientific, behavioral, sociological, political, economic, and ethical functions in human relationships to the environment.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The course is designed . . .

- A. . . . to first give the student an introduction to the field of human ecology by looking at a local region that they are familiar with--the Monterey Bay area (**Part I of course: book analysis**).
- B. . . . to then expand upon that local regional study to see how professional human ecologists conduct their studies in African, Asiatic, Oceanic, and Latin American cultural areas--to analyze the types of research done, the methodologies used, and the conservation lessons learned (**Part II of course: journal analysis**).
- C. . . . to finally give the student an opportunity to explore, investigate, photograph, and report back about a piece of land that they have now seen as a budding human ecologist (**Part III of course: field site analysis**).

**COURSE OUTLINE:** See separate handout: "Course Outline."

**APPROPRIATENESS:** Env. S. 117 is a core requirement for all Env. S. majors, and a cross-listed course with Anthropology. Students interested in other cultures and world regions, and in particular international development (e.g., Peace Corps), will find this course not only interesting, but useful.

### COURSE MATERIALS:

- A. Materials to be purchased:
  1. Gordon, Burton. 1996 (3d Edition). Monterey Bay Area: Natural History and Cultural Imprints. Pacific Grove: Boxwood Press.
  2. Caffrey, et al. 2002. Changes in a California Estuary.
  3. Stewart, George. Earth Abides.
  4. Turabian, Kate. Latest Edition. A Manual for Writers.
- B. Optional library reading: Klee: World Systems of Traditional Resource Management. Copies available in the Library. This book was specifically written for this class and might be of interest. However, it is now out of print.

**COURSE EVALUATION:** This course will run as an undergraduate seminar, wherein there are no exams but rather daily "engaging" with the instructor and fellow students regarding the subject matter, oral reports, written papers, **and a required field trip. Field Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_(TBA). Temporarily keep the following dates open: \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_.** A missed field trip = 1 letter grade off of what your term grade would have been (e.g., your term grade of "B" now becomes a "C" as a result of missing this very important (and extremely fun) field trip. Furthermore, in seminars, one simply does not arrive late nor miss class. You will be evaluated in three major categories:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Seminar Performance (includes daily "engaging" and several formal presentations) .....</b> | <b>40%</b> |
| <b>Written Article Analysis .....</b>   | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>Written Field Site Analysis .....</b>  | <b>50%</b> |

**PREREQUISITES:** EnvS. 01, 10, and 100W are absolutely required, **and none may be taken concurrently with 117.** Exceptions may be allowed for graduate students.

**STATEMENTS REGARDING PLAGERISM AND DISABILITY:** See separate handout.

**QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PROFESSOR:** The course is taught by Dr. Gary A. Klee, Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, San José State University. He has taught human ecology for over 25 years. His principal research and teaching interests are human ecology, coastal resource management, garden environments, and nature photography. He has lived, traveled and taught widely in Oceania and carried out extensive field research in Micronesia. Furthermore, he has published numerous journal articles on human ecology, and has written and edited a book for this course entitled, World Systems of Traditional Resource Management, London: Edward Arnold Publishers. He has served on the Editorial Boards of the following journals: Human Ecology Review, Etnoecológica (Ethnoecology), and Coastal Management.

**KLEE'S OFFICE AND HOURS:** WSQ (Washington Square Hall) **Room 115A**, which is part of the main office suite for the Department of Environmental Studies. Office hours are on a self-appointment basis. In other words, there is a sign up sheet on his office door. Appointments are in 10 or 15 minute blocks. Office hours this semester are as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ (TBA). His school office phone number is (408) 924-5455,

**though he strongly requests you use e-mail that goes to his home office:**

**KleeGary@comcast.net. You can reach him here day, night, and weekends, and get a "same day" response, often within a couple of hours. If he fails to get back to you within 24 hours, he'll buy you a cup of coffee. Guaranteed!**