

Environmental Studies 117
Human Ecology – section 1, 3-unit course

Class Days/Times: Monday/Wednesday, 10:30am – 11:45am

Location: Engineering Building 327

Instructor: Costanza Rampini, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: M/W 12:00pm – 1:30pm or by appointment

Important: You must [sign up for office hours](#) at least 24 hours prior to your visit. Appointments are in 15 minute blocks. You may sign up for more than one consecutive time block.

Course Description: This is a required course in the major which covers the diversity and similarity of human adaptation, cultural evolution, cultural change and environmental modification in African, Asiatic, Oceanic and Latin American cultural groups. The emphasis is on traditional non-Western conservation practices and their lessons for the modern-day resource manager. ENVS 117 is a core requirement for majors. Students interested in other cultures and world regions, and in particular international development, will find this course not only interesting, but useful.

Prerequisites: ENVS 001, ENVS 010 and ENVS 100W

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to

- A. Give the student an introduction to the field of human ecology by looking at a local region that they are familiar with--the San Francisco Bay Area (**Part I of course: Book analysis**).
- B. 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: Case studies**).
- C. 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 Materials:

Required materials to be purchased: Walker, R.A. (2007) *The country in the city: The greening of the San Francisco Bay Area*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. (Book)

Other readings will be assigned and available via the class [Canvas website](#) [<https://sjsu.instructure.com/>] under “Files” > “Readings”. It is your responsibility to know what assignments are due when, and to complete them on time.

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. 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").**

Your grade in the class will be evaluated in the following ways:

Seminar Performance	30%
(leading class discussion, participation in class debates, attendance/engagement)	
Critical Book Review	15%
Field Site Analysis - Final Presentation	20%
Field Site Analysis – Paper Peer Review	10%
Field Site Analysis - Final Paper	25%

Time expectations

At SJSU, students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one hour of in-person class time. Because this is a 3 unit course, you can expect to spend at least 6 hours per week outside of class completing class-related assignments and readings. Assignments include analysis of one books; library and field research, site photography, and local interviews; 3 written assignments, and one power-point presentation. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 6-hours of work outside the classroom. **Careful time management is required** to keep up and succeed.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall and is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and are well trained to assist all students at all levels become better writers. The [Writing Center website](#) is www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](#), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical

Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Equal Educational Access (Campus Policy in Compliance)

SJSU is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability, who requires adaptations or accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring is available. Visit [the LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) for more information: www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and all instant-messaging programs must be turned off prior to class. NO text messaging or phone use is permitted in the classroom and laptops may only be used for taking notes. This will be strictly enforced.

EnvS 117 Schedule

	Material	Readings/Assignments
Mon. January 30th	Class intro & logistics – What is human ecology?	
Wed. February 1st	Theoretical perspectives – Cultural ecology & ecological anthropology	Harris 1974
Mon. February 6th	Theoretical perspectives – Environmental history, political ecology, socio-ecological systems	Cronon 1996
Wed. February 8th	Walker Book Discussion	Walker, Foreword – Ch. 1
Mon. February 13th	Walker Book Discussion	Email me field site selections Walker, Ch. 2 & 3
Wed. February 15th	Walker Book Discussion	Walker, Ch. 4 & 5
Mon. February 20th	Walker Book Discussion	Walker, Ch. 6 & 7
Wed. February 22nd	Walker Book Discussion	Walker, Ch. 8 & 9
Mon. February 27th	Walker Book Discussion	Walker, Ch. 10 & Conclusion
Wed. March 1st	Discuss student projects & presentations	Critical Book Review Due Read field analysis project guidelines on Canvas
Mon. March 6th	Human ecology in Northeast India – Adaptation to floods	ICIMOD 2009, pp. 43-49 only
Wed. March 8th	Human ecology in Northeast India – Livelihood resilience	Tanner et al. 2015
Mon. March 13th	Methods in human ecology	
Wed. March 15th	How are the Seri able to avoid the tragedy of the commons?	Basurto 2005
Mon. March 20th	Sacred groves of India	Ormsby 2011
Wed. March 22nd	Payment for ecosystem services in Vietnam	To et al. 2012
Mar 27-March 31 ---- Spring Break!!!		

Mon. April 3rd	Transactional fish-for-sex relationships in Kenya	Fiorella et al. 2015 Field Site Analysis Draft Due
Wed. April 5th	Class cancelled - Work on your field site analysis & peer review	
Mon. April 10th	The Huaorani Indians of Ecuador	Lu 2001 Lu Holt 2005
Wed. April 12th	The pristine myth	Anderson 2005: Preface, pp. xv - xviii Note on..., pp. xxvii - xxix Introduction, pp. 1-10
Mon. April 17th	Human-wildlife conflicts in India	Ogra 2008 Peer Review Due (2 copies)
Wed. April 19th	Illegal wildlife trade in Baja California Sur, Mexico	Mancini et al. 2011
Mon. April 24th	Sustainable snake hunting in Cambodia	Brooks et al. 2008
Wed. April 26th	Student Presentations	
Mon. May 1st	Student Presentations	
Wed. May 3rd	Student Presentations	
Mon. May 8th	Student Presentations	
Wed. May 10th	Student Presentations	
Mon. May 15th	Student Presentations/Class Wrap Up	FIELD SITE ANALYSIS PAPER DUE