

Ecological Anthropology—ANTH 4143
MWF, 12:30–1:20, Old Main 323
Spring Semester 2006

Instructor: Dr. Justin Nolan
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This course is an introduction to ecological anthropology, the study of the interrelationships between humans and their environments. Ecological anthropology is concerned with people's perceptions of and interactions with their physical and biological surroundings, and the various linkages between biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity. Topics to be explored include subsistence strategies, the ecology of ethnic foodways, human alteration of the environment, traditional knowledge of wild plants, ethnobiological classification, natural resource sustainability, intellectual property rights among indigenous peoples, the anthropology of tourism, environmental racism, and conservation policies in both simple and complex societies. My goal in teaching this class is to provide you with a broader understanding of the role of culture in sustaining the diversity of plant and animal life on earth, and the role of nature in perpetuating cultural knowledge for future generations. Keep me informed about your thoughts on the course—I welcome your office visits and email!

Textbooks (6 required):

Brown, Linda Keller and Kay Mussell (editors).

1984. *Ethnic and Regional Foodways in the United States: The Performance of Group Identity*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.

Cloke, Paul and Jo Little (editors).

1997. *Contested Countryside Cultures: Otherness, Marginalization, and Rurality*. London: Routledge.

Etkin, Nina L. (editor).

1994. *Eating on the Wild Side: The Pharmacologic, Ecologic, and Social Implications of Using Noncultigens*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Feld, Steven and Keith H. Basso (editors).

1996. *Senses of Place*. Santa Fe: SAR Press.

Kinsley, David.

1995. *Ecology and Religion: Ecological Spirituality in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Nadel-Klein, Jane.

2003. *Fishing for Heritage: Modernity and Loss Along the Scottish Coast*. Oxford: Berg Publishers.

Sheller, Mimi.

2003. *Consuming the Caribbean: From Arawaks to Zombies*. London: Routledge Publishers.

Reserve Readings (Filed in the Anthropology library, Old Main 332):

Coreil, Jeannine, Linda Whiteford, and Diego Salazar.

1997. The Household Ecology of Disease Transmission: Dengue Fever in the Dominican Republic. Pp. 143-172 in *The Anthropology of Infectious Disease*, edited by Marcia Inhorn and Peter Brown. Gordon and Breach Publishers, Amsterdam.

Fowler, Catherine S.

2000. Ethnoecology: An Introduction. Pp. 13-16 in *Ethnobotany: A Reader*, edited by Paul Minnis. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Helman, Cecil G.

1994. Diet and Nutrition. Chapter 3 in *Culture, Health, and Illness*. Butterworth and Heinemann, Oxford.

Kottak, Conrad.

1999. The New Ecological Anthropology. *American Anthropologist* 101(1):23-25.

Moran, Emilio.

1990. Ecosystem Ecology in Biology and Anthropology: A Critical Assessment. Pp. 3-40 in *The Ecosystem Approach in Anthropology*, edited by Emilio Moran, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.

Nazarea, Virginia.

1999. A View from a Point: Ethnoecology as Situated Knowledge. Pp. 3-20 in *Ethnoecology: Situated Knowledge, Situated Lives*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Nolan, Justin M. and Michael C. Robbins.

1999. Cultural Conservation of Medicinal Plant Use in the Ozarks. *Human Organization* 58(1):57-62.

Reimensnyder, Barbara.

1990. Cherokee Sacred Sites in the Appalachians. Pp. 107-117 in *Cultural Heritage Conservation in the American South*, edited by Benita J. Howell. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Robbins, Michael C. and Justin M. Nolan. What's Old is New Again: The Revival of Traditional Hunting Techniques in Missouri and Arkansas. 2005. In *Culture Turbulence, Culture Change: Essays in Honor of Luther Gerlach*, edited by Lisa Brandt. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.

Course Format:

- I will lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Fridays will generally be reserved for videos and class discussions of the weekly reading assignments. Videos will be shown here in our regular classroom in Old Main on the days designated on this syllabus.

Attendance:

- Regular attendance is expected. I will take attendance on a random basis, and your overall attendance score will constitute 10% of your grade. Good attendance is crucial to your success in my class and to my success as your instructor!

Exams and Grading:

- There will be two exams in this class, each of which will count toward 30% of your semester grade. These exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short essays. The second of the two exams will **not** be cumulative.
- You will also be assigned a final paper, 8-10 pages in length, typed and double-spaced, based on an original topic with special relevance to the content of this course. We will discuss potential paper topics early in the semester, but it doesn't hurt to start thinking of a topic now! *Paper topics must be approved in advance by the instructor.* The last two weeks of classes have been set aside for student presentations, which will consist of informal, 5-10 minute discussions of your projects. During early April, I will circulate a sign-up sheet with time slots for you to reserve for your presentation. Note: your attendance is expected on all presentation days; this is a courtesy I expect you to extend to other students. **Final papers are due on Friday, May 6th, by 5:00 pm in my mailbox.**

Your semester grade will be based on the following percentages:

Exam 1:	30%
Exam 2:	30%
Final paper:	30%
Attendance:	<u>10%</u>
	100%

The following grading scale will be used to determine your semester grade:

A:	90–100%
B:	80–90%
C:	70–80%
D:	60–70%
F:	below 60%

- *Note: absolutely no make up exams will be given without prior consent from the instructor. If a make-up exam is required, it will be given after stop day during finals week. A word to the wise: make-up exams are considerably more difficult, consisting entirely of essay questions!*

Other Concerns:

- Students who have special conditions as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and who need any test or course materials furnished in an alternate format should notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of these students.
- You are expected to observe the University's standards for academic honesty. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Provost's office.

Inclement Weather Policy:

- In the case of inclement weather, please call my voice mail at 575-3855 for announcements about possible class cancellations. You are also welcome to call me at home at 442-5509. The bottom line is this: when roads become icy, please do not attempt to drive or walk to campus.

*******Overview of the Course and Assigned Readings*******

Week 1: January 19-21

Overview of the course

Introduction to ecological anthropology

Reserve reading: Kottak's "The New Ecological Anthropology"

Week 2: January 24-28

Theoretical and methodological foundations

Reserve reading: Moran's "Ecosystem ecology in biology and Anthropology"

Reserve reading: Fowler's "Ethnoecology: An Introduction"

Reserve reading: Nazarea's "A View from a Point: Ethnoecology as Situated Knowledge"

Week 3: January 31-February 4

Economic geography and human subsistence

The cultivation continuum

Etkin: Chapter 1

Etkin: Chapter 7 (by Dufour and Wilson)

Week 4: February 7-11

Dietary ecology and epidemiology

Reserve reading: Coreil et al: "The Household Ecology of Disease Transmission: Dengue Fever in the Dominican Republic"

Reserve reading: Helman's "Diet and Nutrition"

Week 5: February 14-18

Symbolic anthropology and expressive traditions

Spirituality and ecology in developing societies

Kinsley: Chapter 2, 4, 5, 6

Week 6: February 21-25

Religion and marginalization in the rural U.S.

Kinsley: Chapter 10

Feld and Basso: Chapter 4 (by Stewart)

Cloke: Chapter 5 (by Bell)

Week 7: February 28-March 4

Ecology, community and regional identity

The changing politics of rurality

Feld and Basso: Chapter 5 (by Kahn)

Feld and Basso: Chapter 8 (by Frake)

Cloke and Little: Chapter 4 (by Halfacree)

Week 8: March 7-11**MIDTERM EXAM: MONDAY, MARCH 7th**

Southern Anthropological Society Conference this week

(a video will be shown Wednesday, March 9th; no class on Friday, March Thursday, March 11th)

Week 9: March 14-18

You are where you eat: The cultural geography of regional foodways

Keller and Brown: Chapter 2 (Kalcik)

Keller and Brown: Chapter 7 (Gillespie)

Keller and Brown: Chapter 8 (Gutierrez)

Week 10: March 21-25**NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK****Week 11: March 28-April 1**

The ethical implications of human-wildlife conflict

Neotraditionalism and blood sports

Kinsley: Chapters 13, 14, 16

Reserve reading: Robbins and Nolan's "What's Old is New Again: The Revival of Traditional Hunting and Fishing Techniques in Missouri and Arkansas"

Week 12: April 4-8

The Anthropology of tourism

Sheller: Part I

Week 13: April 11-15

The Anthropology of tourism

Exploring recreational culture

Sheller: Part II

Nadel-Klein: Chapters 1-3

Week 14: April 18-22

Commercialization and folklife conservation

Heritage preservation and cultural survival

Nadel-Klein: Chapters 4-6

Cloke and Little: Chapter 13 (by Fisher)

Reserve reading: Nolan and Robbin's "Cultural Conservation of Medicinal Plant Use in the Ozarks"

Week 15: April 25-29

Environmental policy and stewardship

Cultural intervention programs

Kinsley: Chapter 17

Reserve reading: Reimensnyder's "Cherokee Sacred Sites in the Appalachians"

Student project presentations (starting Friday, April 29)

Week 16: May 2-4

Student project presentations

(Friday, May 6 is Dead Day)

FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY, MAY 7th, 7:30-9:30 am, HERE IN OUR REGULAR CLASSROOM