

**Anthropology 399:  
Environment and Culture  
Fall Term 2012  
Monday  
6:00-8:45pm  
SB 142**

**Instructors:** Professor Rita Henderson with Professor Shauna McGarvey

**Location:** Science B 142

**Office:** ES 602J

**Email:** scmcgarv@ucalgary.ca; rihender@ucalgary.ca (please CC: both instructors for all emails)

**Office Hours:** Monday 4:45-5:45 or by appointment

TA: Dan Odell

**Overview of Course**

This course explores the relationship between human societies and their environment. It asks: How does culture shape our ideas about nature, constructing our environment and framing our actions towards it? Rather than simply examining the biophysical causes and manifestations of particular environmental concerns, students will be encouraged to think "anthropologically" about the role of science, conservation and "resource" use in mediating human relationships with the Earth. Material will question the nature of "nature"; relate large-scale economic development and social planning to local realities; explore the goals and unintended impacts of conservation; and review foundations of anthropological theory that help make sense of these. We will also explore contributions that ethnographic knowledge makes to critical understanding of environmental conflicts.

**Course Objective**

By the end of this course students will have a solid grounding in environmental anthropology and exposure to cross-cultural case studies that explore the diverse ways in which humans have understood, constructed and responded to their environment. Students will be able to:

1. Apply key concepts learned in class to a range of relevant cases and historical/geopolitical contexts.
2. Identify the role of foundational theory in contemporary policies on the environment.
3. Develop critical arguments about diverse human relationships to the environment and means for understanding these.

**Course Format**

This course will follow an interactive lecture-discussion style format accompanied by films, online materials, and break-out groups. Students are expected to do the course readings indicated for each date prior to class and to participate in discussions based on the material.

**Blackboard**

In addition to the required texts available in the bookstore, course materials (i.e. readings, films) and information will be posted on the U of C Blackboard. Use of Blackboard requires that each student have a U of C username and password. The Blackboard login can be accessed through myUofC. Emails registered in the myUofC system will be used to send confirmations of received assignments, so make sure that the email indicated in the system is in use.

## **Required Texts**

Students are expected to read assigned texts in preparation for each class.

1. Haenn, N and R.R Wilk. (2006) *The Environment in Anthropology. A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living.* New York University Press. (\$33 at U of C bookstore)
2. Ioge, J (2004) *Conservation and Globalization: A Study of National Parks and Indigenous Communities from East Africa to South Dakota.* Wadsworth. (\$61 at U of C bookstore)
3. Additional reading/viewing material will be posted on Blackboard

<b><u>Course Requirements</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Grade</u></b>
Compare / contrast essay	<i>students select among available dates</i>	15%
Ethnographic perspectives in videos	<i>students select among available dates</i>	15%
Applied case study essay	<i>students select among available dates</i>	15%
Group analysis assignment	circulated Oct. 1, due Oct. 22	30%
Final cumulative exam	registrar's scheduled final exam	25%

## **Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination** YES

### **Class Participation and Attendance Policy**

Classroom discussions are a key feature of the course, and all students are expected to participate. Students who engage in classroom discussions and breakout groups will gain the most from the course, especially as classes are only once a week. Some of these conversations may form the basis for exam questions.

### **Grading**

Final grades are based on the following:

A+	100-94.9%	B	79.8-74.9%	C-	62.8-58.9%
A	94.8-89.9%	B-	74.8-70.9%	D+	58.8-54.9%
A-	89.8-84.9%	C+	70.8-66.9%	D	54.8-49.9%
B+	84.8-79.9%	C	66.8-62.9%	F	49.8% and less

### **Contacting Instructors**

Please send all emails to both instructors to ensure efficient communication. We will do our best to respond to emails within 24 hours during weekdays and within 48 hours over weekends. However, long emails may take longer to respond to, for which students are encouraged to raise such points during office hours instead. Please send only one email at a time. Also, questions regarding exam/assignment marks can only be addressed during office hours. You do not need to let us know if you are not attending class, but you are encouraged to ensure that a peer will share their notes with you.

### **Electronic Devices in the Classroom**

All cellphones are expected to be turned off during class-time, a policy enforced with ZERO tolerance. Anyone caught using a cell phone at any time for any reason during class will be asked to leave, this includes texting on silence. If you expect to receive a call, sit by a door and leave the room in a non-disruptive manner prior to answering. Laptops are discouraged, but they may be used for note-taking by those sitting along the walls and at the back of the classroom. Should laptops become used for purposes not related to course material or in the designated areas of the classroom, this privilege may be removed for all class members. It is the instructors' preference

that students take notes by hand, so that computers do not interfere with the social environment generated through class discussion. A ZERO tolerance policy is also enforced regarding surfing on the internet unrelated to the class. Anyone caught will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to use a laptop again in the class. Please note, not only is this distracting to you, most importantly it is distracting to the students around you (who see everything you are doing) and your instructor.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403.220.8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen days after the start of this course.

### **Intellectual Honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that will be dealt with seriously in this course and by this university. Students must not submit the words or ideas of another person as their own for any assignment in this course. Students are reminded to review the University's and the Department of Anthropology's policies on Intellectual Honesty and Plagiarism.

<http://anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

In evaluations, when a piece of information or a quote is used from another person (author, filmmaker, guest speaker), due credit is required. Students must mention the source in brackets after the paraphrased sentence or direct quote. For example, (Author YEAR: PAGE):

"Fortified enclaves are privatized, enclosed, and monitored spaces for residence, consumption, leisure, and work" (Caldeira 1996: 303).

Full reference details must then be cited in a bibliographic section at the end of a document. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Provide a complete listing of those sources cited in your text and no others. References must be given in a standard academic format; examples will be posted on Blackboard.

## **ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof, please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Student Representation**

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact these if you have questions related to Students' Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns. For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre. For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the ICT Food Court and the Social Sciences Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.