

ANTH 399.3  
Special Topics in Anthropology (Environment and Culture)  
Winter 2015

LEC 1, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:00–1:50 p.m.  
Administration Bldg. (AD) 142

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	M 2:30–4:30 p.m. or by appointment		TBA or by appointment
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### 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 ecological processes, students will be encouraged to think “anthropologically” about the role of science, conservation and “resource” use in mediating human relationships with the Earth. Materials 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 resource management; 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/geo- political 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 a lecture format accompanied by films, online materials, and additional readings. Students are expected to read the course readings indicated for each date prior to class. Powerpoint slides of the lectures in PDF format will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L) after the lecture for back-up.

### Required Readings

1. Haenn, N and R.R Wilk. 2006. The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living. New York: New York University Press.

2. Additional reading/viewing material will be posted on D2L

### Lecture Schedule

Please check out D2L regularly.

### Course Requirements, Date, and Percent of Grade

The final grades will be based upon marks on quizzes, one mid-term exam, and a Registrar-scheduled final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the lecture, course text and readings, and the films. Exams will include multiple choice questions, short answer, and essay type questions. The final exam is cumulative.

Mini assignments (short essays)	20 %	See below
Writing assignment (Policy brief)	20 %	Due: March 20 (Fri.)
Midterm exam	25 %	February 25 (Wed.)
Final exam	35 %	TBA, During the exam week (Apr. 18–29)

About Mini assignments There will be five mini assignments in total. Each assignment will be worth 4 % of your final grade. Assignments involve 1) summarizing an assigned article or theme and 2) adding your thoughts to the summary within 400–600 words in total. As for the specific direction for each assignment, see D2L. The assigned articles (themes) and their dues are:

1. The urbanite image of “wilderness”	Cronon (1996)	January 19 (Mon.)
2. Describe your memorable landscape(s)	Free essay	February 13 (Fri.)
3. Bush meat and/or Indigenous whaling	McRae (Chp. 24) and/or Anderson (Chp. 35)	February 23 (Mon.)
4. Resource development & consultation	Gibson et al. (1998)	March 23 (Mon.)
5. Mass consumption	Wilk (Chp. 38)	April 8 (Wed.)

Assignments should be handed in hard copy. Electronic copies will NOT be accepted.

Policy brief making assignment Based on the concept of political ecology, students will create a policy brief concerning an environmental issue. A theme can be chosen freely or may be chosen from the textbook and an assigned reading. The citation style guidelines are provided at <http://anth.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/citation-style-guidelines>.

### Grading scheme

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

Test re-writes will NOT be offered except for documented medical and family emergencies. Non-

academic activities, such as vacation plans and heavy workload will not be considered. Course appeals (grades, missed exams) have to be made in writing.

If a student is unable to write a mid-term exam, the instructor must be informed about the situation beforehand, not afterwards. A notification after the missed exam will NOT be accepted. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology or the instructor must be notified prior to the exam date via telephone (Dept. 220-6516; Instructor, see above) or email. A proper document can be provided afterwards.

### **Email Policy**

Please include the word "ANTH399" in the title of the message. An email written concisely and in a proper manner will be appreciated. While the instructor will attempt to respond to emails in a timely fashion, that is, within two working days, volume may mean delays will extend beyond this period. In other words, please don't send an email about an exam an hour before and expect a response.

Also, general questions regarding the course outline, the format of exams and quizzes, and so forth can be addressed in the forum of D2L, so students can share FAQs.

### **Conduct in the Classroom**

All cellphones are expected to be turned off during class-time. If you expect to receive a call, sit by a door and leave the room in an undistruptive manner prior to answering. Note-taking by hand is encouraged. Should you find it convenient to take notes by laptops, their use is allowed as long as computers do not interfere with the academic environment generated through lecture and class discussion. Anyone who distracts the class 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 Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre), please contact their office at 403.220.8237. Students who have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Intellectual Honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offences 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. See <http://anth.ucalgary.ca/intellectual-honesty-guidelines> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Social Sciences Food Court. The alternate assembly court shall be Food Court in the ICT building. (see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points/assembly-points> ).

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their university careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their university courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

### **USRI**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference, please participate!

Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

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.

Note-taking is an important component in Social Anthropology.

### **Contacting Instructor**

My office hours are shown above. Students are welcome to forward their questions and comments to the instructor or TA's email indicated at the top of this document. Please allow 36 hours for response and 48 hours over weekends. Long emails may take longer to respond to. 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 me know if you are not attending class, but you are encouraged to ensure that a peer will share their notes with you.

### **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. 5

### **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

, for which students are encouraged to raise such points during office hours instead.

While the instructor will attempt to respond to emails in a timely fashion, that is, within two working days, volume may mean that delays will extend beyond this period. In other words, don't send an email about the test an hour before and expect a response.

### Schedule of Weekly Readings

Please note that this class schedule Topic and reading list is subject to modifications during the course.

**Regularly consult Blackboard for any updates or notifications.** Date

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 10		Introduction to the course: Film: <i>Bear 71</i> What is nature? What is Environment?
17	The Trouble with Wilderness: Or when is a tree a tree and when is it culture? Situated Knowledges	Film: <i>In the Light of Reverence</i> Blackboard: <i>The Trouble with Wilderness</i> (Cronon) <i>Against the Social Construction of Nature and Wilderness</i> (Crist) Reader: Chapter 5
24	Whose Conservation?	Reader: Chapters 20-24 Blackboard: <i>Nomadism, identity and the politics of conservation</i> (Upton); <i>Local Knowledge and Memory in Biodiversity Conservation</i> (Nazarea) Film:
October 1		Conservation and Globalization Igoe Ethnography: Chapters 1-3 Film: <i>Nature of Things: Game Over: Conservation in Kenya</i>
8	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>No Class</b> continuing reading Igoe Chapter 4 & last one, number 5 is optional but helpful
15	Indigenous Perspectives on the Environment	Reader: Chapters 31-36 Blackboard: <i>Mapping Reeds and Reading Maps: The Politics of Representation in the Lake Titicacca</i> (Orlove); <i>Glaciers and Climate Change: Perspectives from Oral Tradition</i> (Cruikshank) ; <i>Indigenous People and Environmental Politics</i> (Dove) Film: <i>Baked Alaska</i>
22	Large-Scale Economic Development	Reader: Chapters 14-18 Film: <i>Ecuador Divided over Oil/Between Midnight and the Roosters Crow</i> . Blackboard: <i>Occupying Spaces Created by Conflict: Anthropologists, Development NGOs, Responsible Investment, and Mining</i> (Coumans) <b>Group Take Home Assignment Due</b>
29	Population & Development	Film: : <i>The Legacy of Malthus</i> or Film: <i>Darwin's Nightmare/ TBA</i>

**Blackboard: TBA**  
**Reader: Chapters 8-12**