
ANTH 399.8/ARKY 328.2
The Roots of the Anthropocene
GFC Hours 3-0
Winter 2023

Instructor:	Matthew Walls	Lecture Location:	ENA103
Phone:	403-220-6516	Lecture Days/Time:	MW 14:00-15:15
Email:	matthew.walls@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	ES 807		
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 11-12:00 by appointment		
Teaching Assistant:	Siobhan Clarke		
TA Email:	siobhan.clarke@ucalgary.ca		
TA Office hours:	TBA via D2L		

Prerequisite(s): None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines relationships between humans and earth systems from the combined perspectives of anthropology, archaeology, and paleoecology. The class is designed to be accessible for any student with interest in the environment. Subject matter focuses on the long term and specifically on contexts where actions of past communities have structured environmental processes that we take for granted in the present as “ahuman”.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

- Develop a comprehensive knowledge of the concept of the Anthropocene and its links to trajectories of environmental thought
- Examine case studies of environmental processes that have been shaped by human actions since the Paleolithic
- Build an understanding of the deep history of human agency in environmental processes, and why it matters in contemporary environmental crises

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

There is no course textbook but there will be required readings and articles. All assigned readings are available through digital access via the University of Calgary Library. There will typically be 2 peer-reviewed article length readings per lecture, and a schedule/list will be posted through D2L.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

Students must have access to a computer with an internet connection and updated browser to access D2L, and a word processor or other basic software which will be needed for assignments/exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Quiz 1	Jan 25	20%
Quiz 2	Feb 15	20%
Quiz 3	Mar 15	20%
Quiz 4	April 3	15%
Annotated Bibliography	April 12	10% (Cumulative)
Assignment	April 12	15%

Quiz format: The quiz questions will be drawn from the lecture, course readings, homework assignments, and from films/interactive media in class. Prior to each quiz date, specific instructions will be provided on required preparation, question format, pre-prepared responses, and aids that are permitted.

Annotated Bibliography: Students must produce a half-page, single spaced, annotation for at least 10 of the assigned readings. Each annotation will be worth 1% (up to 10% of the total course mark). The annotated bibliography is cumulative and will be handed in by April 12 via D2L. A rubric and discussion of annotation goals will be introduced in the first lectures.

Assignment: This will consist of a short writing assignment (no more than 2 pages) on topics addressed in the final section of the course. Details and rubrics of the assignment will be released in class.

Missed work: Students may provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student.

Missed examinations/tests cannot be made up without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It is at the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right

to a makeup test/exam. A makeup test/exam will differ significantly in form and/or content from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within two weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

***Please note that no extra credit or 'make up' work is available in this class**
You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class*

Land Acknowledgement

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	
M Jan 9	Overview & Environments with Human Histories
W Jan 11	Separation of nature/culture in environmental thought
M Jan 16	The Old and New Ecologies
W Jan 18	The Anthropocene I
M Jan 23	The Anthropocene II
W Jan 25	Quiz 1: The Anthropocene
	CASE STUDY 1: Huang He/The Yellow River
M Jan 30	Paleolithic to Bronze Age: Changing land practices and erosion
W Feb 1	Levees and Political Power since the Xia Dynasty
M Feb 6	Famous floods
W Feb 8	Historical development of States & flooding into the present
M Feb 13	Guest Presentation

W Feb 15	Quiz 2: The Yellow River
Feb 19-25	Term Break, No Classes
	CASE STUDY 2: Amazonian Land Practices and Global Impact
M Feb 27	Pedogenesis and “dark earths” in Amazonia
W Mar 1	Earth-mounds, communities, and wide scale practice
M Mar 6	Garden cities and the rainforest as a managed environment
W Mar 8	Colonial visions of Amazonia as pristine wilderness
M Mar 13	New theories on global impact and the cessation of Amazonian land tenure
W Mar 15	Quiz 3: Amazonia
	CASE STUDY 3: Anthropogenic Fire and Forests that “Think”
M Mar 20	Cool burns as an ecological tool: ethnographic contexts
W Mar 22	Fire and Pleistocene/Holocene transitions in Central Europe & Alberta
M Mar 27	Guest Presentation: controlled burns in contemporary Parks
W Mar 29	Mesophication and the internet of mushrooms
M Apr 3	Quiz 4: Anthropogenic Fire
	Cybernetic Futures: Runaway vs Creative Systems
W Apr 5	Deep history and carbon credits in Australia/Assignment introduced
M Apr 10	Easter Monday, No Classes
W Apr 12	Further topics/Assignments due/Cumulative Bibliographies due
Apr 15-26	Winter Final Exam Period

IMPORTANT DATES”

M Jan 9	First day of Winter Term lectures
R Jan 19	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Jan 20	Last day to add or swap a course
F Jan 27	Fee payment deadline for Winter Term full and half courses.
Feb 20-24	Reading Break. No classes.
F Apr 7	Good Friday, University closed. No classes.
M Apr 10	Easter Monday, University closed. No classes.
W Apr 12	Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Winter Term half courses.
Apr 15-26	Winter Final Exam Period

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>