

SYLLABUS

ANT 331/Spring/2017
3 Credit Hours

GLOBAL POPULATION & HUMAN NEEDS

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Office Location & Hours

Candelaria 2200F; Fridays
12:30-4:30 pm or by appointment



Course Description/Purpose

Short Version

Anthropological perspectives and methods are used to critically examine the assumptions and actions underlying social and environmental contemporary human problems as well as those involved in efforts to address them.

Long Version

We live in a time of increasingly global contemporary human problems, from human rights violations, to economic crises, to “climate refugees” (people leaving or trying to survive within homelands altered by climate change-related factors). Likewise, there is a dizzying variety of strategies to solve them, from technological to ideological. Some solutions work in some contexts; some in others; some don’t work at all. Why is this? In this class, we use anthropological perspectives and methods to critically examine the assumptions and actions underlying contemporary human problems as well as those involved in efforts to address them.

This course is cross-listed between Anthropology and Environmental and Sustainability Studies.

Course Goals/Learning Outcomes

- Be able to explain and present examples to show how culture and cultural change are co-constructed
- Be able to explain and present examples to show how knowledge is situational
- Be able to explain and present examples to show how knowledge and power condition sociocultural structure
- Be able to explain and present examples to show how individual and collective human agency can defy structure
- Explore ways that you and others can be agents of cultural change

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Prerequisites/Technology Use

There are no prerequisites for this class.

This class uses Canvas.

Any student observed to be texting, messaging, instagramming, browsing the internet, playing video games, etc., during class time will have 100 points docked from their final grade.

Required Text-books/Equipment

- Yoon, Carol Kaesuk. 2010. *Naming Nature: The Clash Between Instinct and Science*. W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN 978-0393338713
 - Jackson, Michael. 2013. *The Wherewithal of Life*. University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520276727
 - Stone, Roger D. and Claudia D'Andrea. 2002. *Tropical Forests and the Human Spirit: Journeys to the Brink of Hope*. University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520230897
 - Other readings as assigned by instructor
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Classroom Procedures/Policies

- This is a student-driven class – you will get out of it only what you put into it. Class sessions consist of student-led seminars, documentary analyses, roundtables, discussions, and presentations.
 - The famous actor/director, Woody Allen, has been quoted as saying, “Showing up is 80 percent of life.” In other words, please show up for class and complete your assignments. As most of the work *for* this class is being used or completed *in* class, most of the work can not be made up. Therefore, if you fail to turn in an assignment on time, that assignment is a fail.
 - In my opinion, showing up is 100% of life. For life, it’s optional; for death, it’s mandatory.
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Assessment (Totaling 1000 points)

- Attendance and Participation (350 points)
 - Book Papers (100 points x 3 papers = 300 points)
 - Prezi Project (200 points)
 - Final Reflection Paper (150 points)
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Assignments

- *Attendance & Participation:* Your score will reflect your proportional attendance and participation. To earn the full 350 points, you must attend all classes (unless you have an approved excuse for missing one) and actively contribute to class discussions and activities. **NOTE: this item is worth one third of your final grade.**
 - *Book Papers:* You are required to write an 800 word paper for each book assigned in the class. I will provide the prompts for these papers via Canvas at the beginning of each new book. Each paper will be worth 150 points.
 - *Prezi Project:* The purpose of this semester project is to give you an opportunity to choose an issue that interests you and apply what you have learned in this class to analyzing it and proposing an anthropologically sound approach to addressing it. The issue you select could exist in any part of the world, but you must focus on one region and the issue's causes and solutions must be linked to human culture and society. For example, you could pick deforestation in Southeast Asia, but not global deforestation. You could pick climate change in the Maldives, but not global climate change. Your project will consist of two components:
 1. Prezi (150 points): A 10-minute Prezi comprising four parts:
 - a) An introduction to the issue you selected, including its background and impact;
 - b) A comparison of different kinds of knowledge (e.g., Traditional Ecological Knowledge vs. Western Scientific Knowledge) related to this issue;
 - c) A discussion of the roles that power and sociocultural structure play in causing and exacerbating the issue;
 - d) Description of an anthropologically sound approach to addressing the issue that incorporates both individual and collective human agency.To learn how to build a Prezi presentation, visit prezi.com and explore the tutorials. **NOTE:** You are required to include voice-over narrative (search the Prezi Knowledge Base to figure out how to do this) and your presentation must be as close to exactly 10 minutes as possible. Prezis that are too short or too long will not be graded or reviewed. You are permitted to include YouTube videos in your prezi, but they must be brief (1 minute or less). I will post additional requirements and guidelines on our Canvas site.
 2. Prezi Review (50 points): I will provide a link to an online survey via Canvas. Each student will join a 5-6 member group and be responsible for reviewing each video posted by the other members of his or her group. Based on the reviews, the two highest scoring videos for each group will be chosen for screening at the end of the semester. Winners from each group will receive 15 extra credit points. Following each screening session, students will vote on the best presentation for the session. These winners will receive an additional 15 extra credit points. **NOTE:** Prezi links **must** be posted by the deadline listed in the class schedule. Presentations posted after the deadline will receive NO points and be disqualified from the review process.
 - *Final Reflection Paper:* In this paper, you will summarize what you learned from this class by responding to a prompt. Instructions for this assignment will be available on our Canvas course site.
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Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the University's *Student Code of Conduct*, designed to promote a safe and respectful learning environment. For more information about your rights and responsibilities as a UNC student see http://www.unco.edu/dos/honor_code/index.html

Academic In-

- If the instructor finds that a student has committed plagiarism or another act of
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**tegrity: Plagia-
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academic dishonesty with regard to an assignment or other work related to the course requirements, that student will receive a ZERO for that work and the instructor will report their offense to the Dean of Students.

- *So, what is plagiarism anyway?*
<http://www.unco.edu/dos/academicintegrity/students/definingPlagiarism.html>

**Students with
disabilities:**

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.
