ANT6603: Ecological Anthropology
Thursday, 2:00-4:45, MH 3.02.50

instructor: Dr. Janon Halvaksz, II
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office: HSS 4.03.24
email: janon.halvaksz@utsa.edu
office hours: Thurs 9:30-12:30 and by appointment

Description:
This course explores anthropology’s engagements with the environment, emphasizing historical trends and recent developments across the discipline. Explicit attention is paid to empirical studies and to the theories and assumptions anthropologists have brought to their research.

Learning outcomes:
Students will gain an understanding of Anthropology’s historical and contemporary relationships with ecological and environmental research.

Required text
Readings will be posted on Blackboard, online. Make sure that you have access and can download each article. You will be expected to bring readings to class for discussion.

Requirements and Grading
Presentation, critical evaluation and discussion: In groups to 2 and 3, students will lead discussion twice during the course of the term (50 pts). For each presentation, students will circulate a handout with major themes and discussion questions the night before class. More than summary, these will critically evaluate the work, taking a position for or against different elements of the author’s argument. During the presentations, students will present a brief summary of the assigned readings, raise critical questions and direct the rest of the class in discussions. You will be graded on the handout, presentation content and style, as well as mastery of the material. All students are expected to read and consider the handout prior to class in relation to their own reading of the text.

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Reaction Statements: Each student will be expected to write 10 short reaction statements over the course of the term (Minimum of 4 pages of written text excluding heading and references cited; typed, double spaced). These are due by 9AM each Thursday, before class, via blackboard. The statements should not be exhaustive, but should focus on themes and points of interest to the student. They can include main points from each reading and questions that you would like to raise during discussion. But, do not simply summarize. Reaction statements for the second and third week of class are mandatory for everyone. (15 points each).

Two Exams will consist of short answer and essay questions.
Extended Book Review: Students will be expected to write a 2500 word review of a book published in the last 12 months. The book should be topically related to the student’s interests within ecological anthropology and approved beforehand. I cannot be a book read for another class. While summarizing the author’s research and main points is to be expected, the review must critically assess the text in light of existing literature, methods used, relationship between data and conclusion, writing style, etc.

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<td>Reaction Statements</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2 (final)</td>
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<td>500 pts</td>
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Academic Policies, including Misconduct: The University of Texas at San Antonio has clear policies concerning disruptive classroom behaviors, plagiarism, and other forms of misconduct (see www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.cfm). Plagiarism can be as simple as collaborating with a classmate on an assignment that is intended to show individual effort. A common form in this class is failure to appropriately cite sources in the ethnography paper. More serious forms include cheating or copying another’s work as your own. Cutting and pasting from internet sources is particularly problematic as the material on-line is not always accurate, and this is plagiarism. The college’s policies regarding this and other misconduct are available in written form, and you are expected to know them and follow them. You can also refer to the UTSA Student Code of Conduct on scholastic dishonesty and disciplinary action (http://www.utsa.edu/OSJA/index.cfm). There are clear procedures for instructors and students to follow in the event of misconduct, harassment, or other unwanted behaviors, along with appropriate consequences for infractions. Students who ignore these policies will minimally receive an F on the associated assignment, but could receive an F for the course at my discretion.

Access/Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities and learning needs. If you need accommodation in order to fully participate in the course, information about the Disability Services can be found at their web site (www.utsa.edu/disability/), or call them at 458-4157. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do as well.

Campus support: I encourage you to utilize the academic support services available to you through the Tomás Rivera Center (TRC) to assist you with building study skills and tutoring in course content. These services are available at no additional cost to you. And they can be helpful for both undergraduate and graduate students. The TRC has several locations at the Main Campus and is also located at the Downtown Campus. For more information, visit the web site at www.utsa.edu/trcss or call (210) 458-4694 on the Main Campus and (210) 458-2838 on the Downtown Campus.

The Creed!!!! <http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed>
The Code of Honor!!!! <http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed/honorcode.html>

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.
SCHEDULE

Week 1, August 30, 2012: Introduction to the course

Week 2, September 6, 2012: Nature, Ecology, and Environment: history and influences


Week 3, September 13, 2012: Cultural Ecology


Week 4, September 20, 2012: Ecosystems


Week 5, September 27, 2012: Ethnoecology and TEK


**Week 6, October 4, 2012: Historical and Political Ecology**


Week 7, October 11, 2012: Managing the Commons


Week 8, October 18, 2012:
Midterm exam

Week 9, October 25, 2012: Indigenous Politics


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**Week 10, November 1, 2012: Resource management, mapping and remote sensing**


Week 11, November 8, 2012: Landscapes


Week 12, November 15, 2012: AAA meetings in San Francisco,
Independent work on Book Review.

Week 13, November 22, 2012: Thanksgiving, NO CLASS

Week 14, November 29, 2012: Sustainability, Conservation and Communities
Book Review Due


Week 15, December 6, 2012: Redefining Concepts: Networks, Complexity, and Resilience


**Final Exam, December 14, 2011**

10:30AM-1:00PM