Instructors: David Eaton, Jesse Dizard, Bill Loker, potentially others.

Nature, Culture, Environment

This course examines how societies create, understand, and resolve environmental problems. It uses anthropological methods to explore relations between cultural and natural orders in a wide range of human groups. It emphasizes new approaches that can contribute to the well-being and sustainability of living communities in the twenty-first century.

required texts
* coursepack readers
* Maps and Dreams (Hugh Brody)
* Zapotec Science (Roberto González)
* Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection (Anna Tsing)
* Environmentalism: A Global History (Ramachandra Guha)

recommended
* State of the World 2008 (Worldwatch Institute)
* The New York Times (subscription)

Proposed course schedule

week 1  Primates are us
Schiebinger, Distinguishing humans from apes, from Nature's Body
Haraway, Primatology is simian orientalism
De Waal and Lanting, from Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape

week 2  The human species: emergent capacities
Sahlins, The original affluent society
Diamond, Evolution, consequences, and future of plant and animal domestication
Mithen, from After the Ice: A Human History 20,000-5,000 BC

week 3  Into the modern world
Crosby, Ecological Imperialism (selections)
Schneider, World markets: anthropological perspectives
Bellamy Foster, The Vulnerable Planet (selections)

week 4  Our special moment
McKibben, A special moment in history
Manning, The oil we eat
Kunich, Ark of the Broken Covenant (selections)
Peterson, Eating Apes (selections)

* paper on the modernization of human ecologies *

week 5  Political ecologies
Robbins, Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction (selections)
Watts and Peet, Liberating political ecology
Boal, Damaging crops: sabotage, social memory, and the new genetic enclosures
Brush, Protectors, prospectors, and pirates of biological resources

week 6  Foragers and villagers
Brody, Maps and Dreams (selections)
Scott, James Bay Cree knowledge construction
Anderson and Kreamer, Wilderness, from Wild Spirits, Strong Medicine

week 7  Indigenous sciences
Nader, Naked Science (selections).
González, Zapotec Science (selections)
Foucault, On subjugated knowledges, from Power/Knowledge

week 8  Translocal histories, global crises
Tsing, Anna. Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection (selections)

* paper on indigenous knowledge and globalization *

week 9  Environmental movements and environmental justice
Guha, Environmentalism: A Global History (selections)
Evans, 'Nature' and environmental justice

* midterm exam *

week 10  Stakes and stakeholders in tropical forests
Oates, from Myth and Reality in the Rainforest
Cinnamon, Narrating equatorial African landscapes
de Wachter, Minkébé forest conservation plan (Gabon)
Richards, Fighting for the Rain Forest (selections)

week 11  New urban worlds
Davis, Planet of Slums (selections)
Okri, from The Famished Road
de Boeck and Plissart, from Kinshasa: Tales from the Invisible City
Kapuscinski, My alleyway

week 12  Resource conflicts and the nation-state
Klare, Resource Wars (selections)
Okonta and Douglas, from Where Vultures Feast (selections)
Ghazvinian, Untapped: The Scramble for Africa’s Oil (selections)
Eaton, Diagnosing the crisis in the Republic of Congo

* paper on youth, resource struggles, and social change *

week 13  Water in the 21st century
de Villiers, from Water. Chapters 1-4, 12 (first half), 13 (first half), 15
Kunich, from Killing Our Oceans (selections)
Economy, The River Runs Black (selections)
Helmreich, Stephan. Life@Sea. In Franklin and Lock, eds, Remaking Life and Death.
**week 14 Biocultural diversity**
Hinton, *Flutes of Fire: Essays on California Indian Languages* (selections)
Bastien, *Mountain of the Condor* (selections)
Maffi, Introduction to *On Biocultural Diversity*

**week 15 Post-industrial conjunctures**
Harvey, from *The Condition of Postmodernity*
Pollan, from *The Omnivore's Dilemma*
McKibben, *Crossing the red line*
Hawken et al., The next industrial revolution, from *Natural Capitalism*

**week 16**

* final examination *

Course requirements: class preparation, attendance, and active participation; online discussion postings; in-class quizzes, including map quizzes; assigned brief papers; midterm; final examination.

Students are required to post regularly (weekly) in WebCT VISTA online in response to questions about selected readings. The cumulative quality of these postings will be one record of your engagement in the class and will be considered carefully as a major component of your final grade. Also required are two analytic papers of about 1250 words each, to be submitted to me electronically. Late papers will be marked down 10% each 24 hours, and will not be accepted after 72 hours. There will be a midterm and a final examination. There will also be occasional field exercises, and short quizzes at points throughout the term to help keep you current on the course readings and to make sure you are understanding the materials.

Please note: Assignments may be added or revised as the course progresses. Details will be announced in class and posted online. Students are responsible for checking their email and WebCT Vista accounts regularly to stay current with class announcements. Students are expected to know and adhere to CSU policies on plagiarism and respect of library materials. Suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Student Judicial Affairs office.

Please note: Repeated unexcused absences from class will result in a lower final grade. I will accept no excuses, no matter how good or understandable, other than a copy of a signed letter from an authorized university office or medical care provider specifying the date(s) excused. To contact me about a course matter, please email me at daeaton@csuchico.edu (I prefer email to phone calls; if necessary, you can call me at my office phone at 898-4185). If you miss class it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from other students in the class.

Anthropology 333 is proposed as a Non-Western course.

In our anthropology curriculum at CSU Chico, our overall goals are to

1. Understand from an anthropological perspective the phenomenon of culture as it differentiates human life from other life forms. Understand the roles of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.

2. Become able to critically address issues of diversity, power, inequality, and survival from an anthropological perspective.
3. Know substantive data and theoretical perspectives in the subdisciplines of anthropology. Know the history of anthropological theory and be conversant in major issues in each area.

4. Be familiar with the forms of anthropological literature and basic data sources. Know how to access, interpret, evaluate, and apply such information, using a range of sources and information technologies.

5. Grasp the methodologies of the subdisciplines of anthropology. Be able to apply appropriate methods when conducting anthropological research.

6. Be able to present and communicate the results of anthropological research.

(as revised Jan 07)
OTHER POSSIBLE WEEKLY MODULES FOR COURSE

**Dwelling, habitation, landscape**  

"Rice and rain (Joola)," from *Drawn from African Dwellings*, by Jean-Paul Bourdier and Trinh T. Minh-ha, pp. 236-284 (excerpted text only; about 15 pages total)


**Pastoralist dilemmas**  
Anderson and Broch-Due, eds., *The Poor Are Not Us*. Chapters 5, 6, 10, and 11.

Hutchison, *Nuer Dilemmas: Coping with Money, Guns, and the State*. (selections)

**Hunger and famine**  


**Making and unmaking the world: among the lakes of central Africa**  


**Equatorial rainforests and their exploitation**  


OTHER POSSIBLE REQUIRED TEXTS
FOR SOME VERSIONS OF COURSE

* The Vulnerable Planet (John Bellamy Foster)
* The River Runs Black (Elizabeth Economy)
* Fighting for the Rain Forest (Paul Richards)
* Eating Apes (Dale Peterson)
* Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction (Paul Robbins)
* Violent Environments (Michael Watts and Nancy Lee Peluso, eds.)
* Going Wild: Hunting, Animal Rights, and the Contested Meaning of Nature (Jan Dizard)
* Biocultural Diversity (Luisa Maffi, ed.)
* Sacred Trees, Bitter Harvests (Brad Weiss)
* Naked Science (Laura Nader)
* Famine Crimes: Politics and the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa (Alex de Waal)
* The Poor Are Not Us: Poverty and Pastoralism in Eastern Africa (David Anderson and Vigdis Broch-Due)
* Roots in the African Dust: Sustaining the Sub-Saharan Drylands (Michael Mortimore)
* Planet of Slums (Mike Davis)
* Ark of the Broken Covenant (John Kunich)
* Killing Our Oceans (John Kunich)
* Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource (Marq de Villiers)
* Fire: A Brief History (Stephen J. Pyne)
* Imposing Wilderness (Rod Neumann)
* Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land (Thomas McCann)
* The Songlines (Bruce Chatwin)
* Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World (Dan Koepel)
* The World Without Us (Alan Weisman)
* The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth (E. O. Wilson)
* EcoBarons: The Dreamers, Schemers, and Millionaires Who Are Saving Our Planet (E. Humes)
* The Weathermakers: How Man is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth (Tim Flannery)