Classes meet in Lubar S250, Monday evenings, 5:30-8:10pm
Feel free to ask questions during class and class breaks.

Instructor office hours—Wednesday afternoon 2-3pm, Mitchell Hall 251
Instructor contact—pistoccu@uwm.edu
(please add “ant355” to subject header and allow 48 hours for reply)
Introduction

What are the human, cultural dimensions of climate change, food systems, energy and water? Why should environmentalists be concerned about social inequalities and international development? What impacts do ideas about ‘sustainability’ and ‘biodiversity’ come to have in different parts of the world? How should we assess ‘ecotourism’, or ‘environmental security’ in a global world? Anthropologists attempt to grasp the experiences and perspectives of people themselves, ‘from the bottom up’. This course explores ethnographic studies related to globalization, culture and environment, and applies key analytical concepts to learn from them.

Students from all disciplines are welcomed. A high quality of student participation is expected. This course is approved as an elective for the Global Security track of Global Studies, the Cultures and Communities program and for the Conservation and Environmental Science program. It fulfills the International requirement and the Social Science General Education Requirement. Undergraduate only. Junior standing is required.

The format is face-to-face. The course will be workshop-style, in which a set of ethnographic readings and films form the basis for focused discussion and debate of specific cases, problems, and approaches in the growing field of political ecology. We will work collaboratively. Bring readings and notes to class, and feel free to ask questions. You will need to come prepared; assigned readings should be completed before class.

If you want to succeed in the course, be engaged and attentive during class meetings. You should come on time, and stay for the duration of the class. Please turn off phones throughout lectures, discussions and films. Do not play games, check email/messages/social media, or roam the internet during class time. Close laptops and keep device screens off while audiovisuals are playing. Students who do not respect these policies will lose grade points. If you do not have time or interest to come to class and pay attention, you should not enroll.

This is an upper-level course and it is reading intensive. You will need to set aside adequate time to complete assignments outside of class. You may encounter ideas that are new, ideas that are provocative, ideas with which you agree, and possibly ideas with which you vehemently disagree. When we debate these in class, you are asked to be respectful of others, whose experiences and commitments may diverge from your own. You are encouraged to express your own understandings, which should be grounded in critical reading. You are not required to “agree” with the readings, with your teacher or your classmates, but you should study or listen to what they have to say, and strive to be tolerant, considered and gracious in reply. Please come to see me if you encounter any difficulties with class, or need special accommodations.
Required Resources

There are two books to buy in September. Additional resources are provided online via D2L. Some films, websites and streaming video podcasts are included among the required course materials and recommended resources. Computer access is available at the library. You do not need a laptop or tablet in class.

1. Please buy this required course text at the beginning of semester:

ISBN 9781629580012

2. Choose one of the following for your book study essay:


Assessment

Grades will be broken down this way:

- 30% ongoing assessment exercises (weekly)*
- 30% book study essay (October)
- 40% take-home final exam (December)

*Quizzes, presentations or short assignments, starting in week 2. These may test cumulative learning. If you miss class, you miss the exercise. There are no makeups, but you can miss two without penalty.

Learning Outcomes

By the time you finish this course, you should be able to:

- Read and analyze studies by environmental anthropologists and scholars in related fields.
- Answer and thoughtfully discuss each of the questions that introduce our weekly themes & concepts.
- Collaborate in group debate and articulate your own ideas out loud.
- Define and apply key concepts from anthropology and the social sciences to understand environmental issues and their global dimensions.
- Understand the value of extended case studies, how they shed light on current issues, and what methodologies are involved.
- Compose a written essay that crafts an argument by drawing on ethnographic evidence and applying key concepts from anthropology and political ecology.
- Uphold academic integrity by adopting standard reference and citation methods used in social science.

The first four learning outcomes are progressively achieved as you prepare for each class, attend and participate in class, and complete the ongoing assessment exercises. The last four outcomes are tied to your book study essay. We will focus on analytical concepts throughout. The final exam will measure the development of your analytical skills and scholarly practice as well as your cumulative knowledge of materials.

Workload

According to guidelines from the Registrar, students should expect to spend approximately 144 hours for a 3-credit course on activities both in-class and outside of the classroom.

Anthropology 355 meets for 2.5 hours per week during the semester, and you should expect to spend an additional 6 hours per week on average to complete required readings, study and assignments to reach the basic learning outcomes. You should set aside extra time over certain weeks (about 22.5 additional hours over the semester) to complete essays & exams.