Course Overview

The world warms, and global environmental imaginaries transform. As geologists debate whether or not we are living in “The Anthropocene”, critical theorists learn to ask new questions. Evolving representations of culture and environment have compelling implications for human rights and indigenous sovereignties over land, water and natural resources. Human security will be shaped not only by changing climates, but also by how we frame the understandings and ethical commitments we articulate in response to them. This course will explore evolving environmental concerns to consider how visions and aesthetics of place in the twenty-first century are interconnected with emerging global discourses about environmental security, governance and power. Blending environmental humanities and social science perspectives, we will reflect upon critical approaches to political ecology and the very idea of “the Anthropocene”.

ANTHROPOCENE IMAGINARIES
Seminar in Anthropology, Spring 2020

Image above from the 2013 Habitus Art Installation by artist Robyn Woolston at Edge Hill University, Liverpool, UK.
Course Texts & Materials

You will have an opportunity to explore readings from different disciplinary perspectives. Some of the course materials look at the geologists’ debates, but the main focus of the course is to understand cultural and humanistic approaches to environmental concerns, particularly as they are informed by questions of social justice.

Books are available on library reserve, but it is highly recommended to buy your own copies of required texts. Other readings & resources will be available via CANVAS, and you will need internet/computer access to access course materials. It is advisable to print hardcopies for study.

Required course texts for undergraduates:


- Amelia Moore, 2019. *Destination Anthropocene: Science and Tourism in the Bahamas*. University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520298934 (Please purchase.) This is an ethnographic case study of ecotourism in the West Indies, and how our understandings about the unfolding impacts of sea level rise and other environmental issues also shapes our perception of such places.

There are additional course texts for graduate students.

Course Format

This is a seminar course that will bring us together from a variety of fields. It is not based on lectures, but on active discussion of readings, so a high quality of preparation & participation is expected from everyone. There will be graduate students in the class, so this is a great chance to experience a taste of what you could do in graduate school.

If you are a senior in your last semester, you may wish to take this course for graduate credit. See the flyer for Anthro 641G if you would like to check out the additional materials that grad students will explore. Of course, you are also welcome to do those readings and participate in extra discussion as optional enrichment.