

TENTATIVE Syllabus
Cultural Ecology
Lifeways, Environments, and Paths to Sustainability
GRG 331K / ANT 324L
84600/82007

Professor Gregory Knapp, gwk@utexas.edu
Office hours TuTh 10:30-11:30, in CLA 3.712
TA Naya Jones
Class Meets MTWThF 11:30-12:50 , CLA 1.102

Tentative syllabus, last revised June 8, 2013

This course examines the long term human trajectory in progressively gaining control over resources and transforming planet earth into a meaningful human home. There will be special attention to the theories and works of geographers, ecological anthropologists, and environmental historians. Lectures and student-proctored discussions examine selected strategies employed by humans to cope with the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented by different natural environments, with special attention to foraging, food, and farming. The course will also provide an introduction to ethical and policy issues surrounding sustainable development and alternative futures. Grading is based on attendance and participation, numerous writing assignments, oral presentations, and proctoring.

The course has a Writing Flag and an Ethics and Leadership Flag.

It can be used to meet the core requirements for the Sustainability (Environmental Resource Management) and Cultural Geography tracks in the Geography major, and the upper division course requirements in the Anthropology major. It also can be used for the International Relations and Global Studies Major.

Prerequisites: Upper Division Standing

Course Website (Blackboard): <https://courses.utexas.edu/>

Required textbooks:

All course readings will be on Blackboard.

Summary of Grading:

Grading will be based on 10 short commentary papers (3 points each, 30%), two longer essays (50%), 2 presentations (5%), co-proctoring (5%), and quizzes (10%).

COMMENTARY PAPERS. The ten short (150-250 word) commentary papers should be sent to everyone in class by Blackboard email by 5 pm prior to the assigned days; also, print out your paper and bring it to class for discussion. Students' commentaries will be used in classroom discussions, including peer groups proctored by students. Failure to attend, participate, and/or submit papers on time will result in deductions from the 3 points given for each essay, as will significant problems in the essays themselves.

PROCTORING. Students will be assigned as co-proctors for many sessions of the class. Proctors will help design class activities, including peer discussions and debates. Proctoring will provide 5 per cent of your course grade. As a proctor, you will be responsible for designing course activities for the day (other than the professor's lecturing). You will share proctoring duties in teams of 2 to 4 students; each person must lead at least one activity during class.

PAPERS. There will be two short course papers. Detailed instructions will be provided on Blackboard. For both papers you will provide oral presentations (worth 2.5 points each). The first paper is 1000 words and is worth 20 points; you may revise and resubmit this paper, with the final score being the average between your first and second scores. The second paper is 1500 words and worth 30 points.

There will also be 11 short attendance quizzes, worth 1 point each. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Grading will be on the plus minus system, as follows. Scores and totals will not be rounded up or down.

93-100 A
90-92.99 A-
87-89.99 B+
83-86.99 B
80-82.99 B-
77-79.99 C+
73-76.99 C
70-72.99 C-
67-69.99 D+
63-66.99 D
60-62.99 D-
Below 60 F

Writing Flag

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience

with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you will be asked to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Ethics and Leadership Flag

This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag. Ethics and Leadership courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations

Writing Center

I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>). The UWC offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. These services are not just for writing that has "problems": Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Using methods that preserve the integrity of your work, they help you develop strategies to improve your writing and become a more independent writer.

Concision

This course may require shorter essays than you are used to. The two term papers are comparable in length to typical newspaper articles, blog entries, or presentations at professional meetings. Concision is a virtue; you should strive to be able to make a point in a limited space.

Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices and Behavior

Electronic Devices. Cell phones, MP3 players, and other such devices must be turned off and stowed during class. Laptops and tablets may be allowed if needed to consult course readings, but otherwise may not be used. Please be prepared to take notes with pad and pen.

Lectures and other class activities may not be recorded in any way without prior permission. Online materials may not be copied or distributed without prior permission.

Students will arrive on time, minimize unscheduled personal breaks, and stay until the class ends. Discussion will often include controversial issues. Expression of differing opinions and debate will be encouraged. Please respect the right of persons to disagree with you, and avoid ridicule, or ad hominem attacks. You often will learn more from those who disagree with you than from those who agree with you.

Accommodations for Special Needs

The University makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the

building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation must inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

U.T. Learning Center

You may find assistance with specific strategies to help you study effectively at the Learning Center. The Center for Learning offers a range of services to become a better student through assistance in one-on-one tutoring, academic counseling, and other classes. For more information see <http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/>

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

Schedule

See separate documents for reading and discussion paper assignments; and for paper assignments.

Week One: Approaching Complex Problems

July 15 Introduction

July 16 Assignment 1 (due in class only), GK proctor

July 17 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 1

July 18 Assignment 2 (due in class, emailed 5 pm previous day) Proctors 1

July 19 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 2

Week Two: Cultural Ecology; Human Origins, Foraging

July 22 Assignment 3 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 2

July 23 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 3

July 24 Assignment 4 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 3

July 25 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 4

July 26 Assignment 5 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 4

Week Three: Farming Origins, Civilizations

July 28 (Sunday 5pm) Paper 1 picture due
July 29 Paper 1 discussions in class, Attendance Quiz 5
July 30 Assignment 6 (in class, emailed previous day), Paper 1 discussions (end), Proctors 5
July 31 **Term Paper 1 due**, Lecture
Aug 1 Assignment 7 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 6
Aug 2 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 6

Week Four: Smallholders, Modernization

Aug 5 Assignment 8 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 7
Aug 6 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 7
Aug 7 Assignment 9 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 8
Aug 8 Lecture, Attendance Quiz 8
Aug 9 Assignment 10 (in class, emailed previous day), Proctors 9

Week Five: Futures

Aug 12 **Term Paper 1 revision due**, Lecture, Paper 2 picture due 5 pm
Aug 13 Oral Presentations for Paper 2, Attendance Quiz 9
Aug 14 Oral Presentations for Paper 2, Attendance Quiz 10
Aug 15 **Term Paper 2 due**, Proctors 10
Aug 16 Attendance Quiz 11, course evaluations