

ANTHROPOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY 523

Human Ecology

SPRING 2021

Course Description:

The course is an overview of human ecology, its current directions and application of analytical techniques as they apply to anthropology and archaeology. The emphasis will be on the relation between human cultural behavior, human biological adaptation, and environmental resources. The course will begin by examining the history, theory, and method of ecological anthropology and move to studies of human adaptability and new directions in research.

Because much of the course will take place in a field setting, the class will have the opportunity to observe and work alongside researchers as they study the relationship between the ancient Maya and their physical environment. Consequently, many of the readings, discussions, and field activities will focus human ecology in a tropical rainforest, examined from different perspectives, including adaptation, sustainability, symbolism, and politics.

Prerequisites:

Consent of the department.

Objectives of the Course:

The student of this course will be able to:

1. Think critically about the interaction among climate, environment, and cultural practices in the Maya lowlands
2. Identify structural features that enabled Maya people coping with and transforming the physical environment, particularly under stress and environmental change
3. Identify climate and vegetation long-term patterns in the Maya area
4. Recognize elements of regional variability in terms of vegetation, climate, and environmental adaptation in different micro-niches of the Maya Area
5. Identify elements of urban hydrology and water management and sustainability among the Pre-Hispanic Maya
6. Recognize zonings of the Maya rainforest and the politics of resource management
7. Identify shifts in settlement, population density, agrarian ecology and consequential environment degradation
8. Recognize how ecological degradation, global tourism, and inequality interweave in the Maya region in different time periods degradation

Textbook and Readings:

- Readings supplied by instructor.

- **Assignments and Evaluation**

- Trip Journal, 20%

Students will prepare a journal with observations and reflections on each of the module of this course according to topics discussed and the activities carried out in the field trip.

- Field and laboratory activities, 25%

Students must participate fully in all on-site discussions and lectures, as well as all field, laboratory and travel activities, unless an approved absence is granted by one of the instructors in the program.

- Five article critiques, 25%

Students will submit a critique of one of the articles from each module. These critiques are due at the end of the semester.

- Research paper/project, 30%

A research paper of 12-15 pages, including bibliography and figures, will be handed after the travel, topic of the essay must be discussed and approved by the instructor. This will be handed the last day of classes.

Note:

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments:

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Grading System:

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|----|------------|----|------------|----|-------------|----|----------------|
| A+ | 100-94.9% | B+ | 84.8-79.9% | C+ | 70.8-66.9 % | D+ | 58.8-54.9% |
| A | 94.8-89.9% | B | 79.8-74.9% | C | 66.8-62.9 % | D | 54.8-49.9% |
| A- | 89.8-84.9% | B- | 74.8-70.9% | C- | 62.8-58.9% | F | 49.8% and less |

DEFERRED EXAMS:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the registrar scheduled final exam requires Registrar approval.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI's (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk Information: Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Ombudsman's office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>