ANTH 3340-100 (13952) Ecology and Society. *F H DAMON*

MWF: 10:00-10:50 206 Brooks Hall

New Cabell Hall 485 [*924-6826/fhd@virginia.edu*](mailto:924-6826/fhd@virginia.edu)

Final Exam: Thursday, 5/11/ 2017 OH: M: 1(2)-5 & by appointment

Spring 2017

ANTHROPOLOGY 3340 & Its Graduate Component

**ECOLOGY & SOCIETY**

An Introduction to the New Ecological Anthropology

*SYLLABUS*

This course attempts to 1) mediate the divide between the Arts and the Sciences; 2) introduce students new to anthropology aspects of culture theory and contemporary ecological/environmental anthropology; 3) forge a synthesis between culture theory and historical ecology; 4) provide new insights on how human both fashion and are fashioned by their environments; 5) create a seminar-like context in which we can evaluate, as anthropologists and citizens of our world, aspects of the current environmental debate in our culture; and 6) facilitate independent study on environmental issues by each student. Although case studies will be drawn from throughout the world, there will be a stress on the social systems and environments from the Asias (S., SE., & E.), Australia, and the Americas. A dominant theme will be the relationships between climate and human culture (through time). Lectures based on readings will occupy Monday and Wednesdays. Through 31 March Fridays will focus on what I call Public Discussion books one of which each student is to read; some time in these sections will also be devoted to lecture and course material in preparation for the Midterm and Final Exams. From April 7 Fridays will be devoted to public presentation of each student’s final projects.

There is a specific week by week syllabus for the PUBLIC SYLLABUS: In the course Collab, Resources section, see PUBLIC SYLS17.

I teach this course because I think the issues it addresses are interesting and extremely important for our future. I look forward to you joining me for the adventure.

Class Cell Phone and Laptop Policies: I’ll claim and step on any cell phone that goes off during the class. Laptops may not be used in class and therefore must be turned off—for complaints look at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/12/30/this-year-im-resolving-to-ban-laptops-from-my-classroom/

**Books available for purchase:**

For everyone:

Plotkin, Mark Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice (1993)

Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko FLOWERS THAT KILL (2015)

Public Discussion books—select and read one of these eight:

Davis, Mike LATE VICTORIAN HOLOCAUSTS: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World(2002 ).

Elvin, Mark The Retreat of the Elephants (2004).

Flannery, Tim F. THE ETERNAL FRONTIER: An Ecological History of North America and Its People. (2001)–

Gammage, Bill THE BIGGEST ESTATE ON EARTH (2011)

Kolbert, Elizabeth *THE SIXTH EXTINCTION An Unnatural History* (2014), Picador

Ruddiman, William Plows, Plagues and Petroleum: How Humans Took Control of Climate

Shugart, H.H. FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH: Global Ecological Change and the Book of Job (2014)

Trautmann, Thomas *ELEPHANTS AND KINGS An Environmental History* (2015) The University of Chicago Press.

**I hope that 2-3 people interested in and knowledgeable about horses will choose this book for their Friday, Public Discussion book**: Anthony, David W. *THE HOURSE, THE WHEEL, AND LANGAUGE: How Bronze-age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes shaved the Modern World.* (2007)

All other readings may be found on the web via the class toolkit, although a few may be hardcopy reserve.

**PART I.**

**COURSE INTRODUCTION AND QUEST**

**A). Introduction I: 1/18 &20**

Course Purpose, Description and Requirements; Syllabus. **Introduction II:-- Public Discussions--**The Seven Books; Project idea examples, & Damon’s Research quest

**PART II**

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL VIEW ON THE ‘PROBLEM OF THE ENVIRONMENT’

--CONCEPTS& GENERALITIES

**A). *Romance* and/or Through Others’ Eyes: On Discontinuities and the Environment 1/20-2/1**

Mark Plotkin’s Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice............. *and some of Damon’s tales too*

**B). Rudiments** Of Humanity, Social **Organization, ‘Ecology’ And Climate**

Terms of comparison and problems in the (social) organization of production **2/1-3/3**

1). Consciousness and Culture

a. “The Primacy of Generic Taxa in Ethnobiological Classification,” Chapter 2 in Brent Berlin’s Ethnobiological classification: principles of categorization of plants and animals in traditional societies*.*

b. “Fetishism: A Cognitive Approach” by Roy Ellen

2). Social Organization from the Ground Up

c. Chapter 27, “The Backwater Country” from THE FUTURE EATERS By Tim Flannery

d. Chapter 7 “Wild Rice: The Endangered, the Sacred and the Tamed” Nabhan Enduring Seeds: native American agriculture and wild plant conservation

e. “Galah” 2009 *Australian Historical Studies* 40: 275-293 by Bill Gammage.

f. Chapter 9 “Lost Gourds and Spent Soils on the Shores of Okeechobee.” Nabhan’s Enduring Seeds

g. Chapter 11 “Harvest Time: *Northern Plains Agricultural Change.”*  Nabhan’s Enduring Seeds

3). Ecology and Culture

f. "Concepts in Historical Ecology: The View from Evolutionary Theory," 1994 by Winterhalder, B

g. “THE COSMIC FOOD WEB: Human-nature relatedness in the Northwest Amazon” by Århem, Kaj 1996

h. “Local Knowledge and Management of Sago Palm (*Metroxylon sagu Rottbeoll)* diversity in south Central Seram, Maluku, Eastern Indonesia” 2006 by Roy Ellen.

i. “A STRANGER’S VIEW OF BIHAR: RETHINKING ‘RELIGION’ AND ‘PRODUCTION’: *More than a Poetry of Properties” 2007* by Frederick H. Damon

4). Culture, Climate and Climate Change.

j. “Nature’s Pulsing Paradigm” 1995 Odum, William E, Eugene P. Odum, Howard T. OdumEstuaries Vol. 18, No. 4, p. 547-555.

k. "Global Climate and Regional Biocultural Diversity," by J. Gunn, Chapter 4in HISTORICAL ECOLOGY

l. “Emergence of Complex Societies after Sea Level Stabilized” 2007 EOS, TRANSACTIONS, AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION \*Day, J. W .Jr. *et.al.*\*

m. “On the Ideas of a Boat. From Forest Patches to Cybernetic Structures in the Outrigger Sailing Craft of the Eastern Kula Ring, Papua New Guinea” by fhdamon. In: Clifford Sather & Timo Kaartinen (eds.) *Beyond the Horizon. Essays on Myth, History, Travel and Society*. Studia Fennica Anthropologica 2. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society. 2008 Pp. 123-144.

~~n. Climate and Culture: Anthropology in the Era of Contemporary Climate Change Susan A. Crate Annu. Rev. Anthropol. 2011. 40:175–94~~

**Midterm Exam: Friday, March 3**

**PART III**

**HYPOTHESES & APPLICATIONS**

**KNOWING ABOUT ‘PRODUCTION’ AND THE WORLD**

**Syntheses Through Case Studies**

**A. Transformations, Cycles, or Reciprocities between Nature and Culture? 3/13-3/20**

1). “the fish & the forest” Gende, Scott M. & Quinn, Thomas P.Scientific American; Aug 2006, Vol. 295(2) p84-89.

2) Langdon, Steve 1989 Chapter 10, “From Communal Property to Common Property to Limited Entry: Historical Ironies in the Management of Southeast Alaska Salmon” in **A sea of small boats** Cambridge, Ma.: Cultural Survival, Inc. Report No. 26Pp.304- 332.

3). Chapter 2.1 “Watersheds and Marinescapes: Understanding and Maintaining Cultural Diversity Among Southeast Alaska Natives” by Thomas F. Thornton, Pp. 123-136 in Water, Cultural Diversity, and Global Environmental Change Emerging Trends, Sustainable Futures? (2012) Barbara Rose Johnston, editor-in-chief Spinger

4) **“Salmon and His People”***Encounters with Global Capitalism by* Benedict J. Colombi Chapter 9 from Keystone Nations *Indigenous Peoples and Salmon across the North Pacific E*dited by Benedict J. Colombi and James F. Brooks **School for Advanced Research Press:** *Santa Fe.* Pp. 183-206.

**B. Bridges to … and the Americas? (1066 and all that?)** **3/20-3/29**

1). “Management for Extinction in Norse Greenland,” by Thomas McGovern, Chapter 6 in HISTORICAL ECOLOGY 1994.

2). “Landscapes of Settlement in Northern Iceland: Historical Ecology of Human Impact and Climate Fluctuation on the Millennial Scale” THOMAS H. McGOVERN, et.al. AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST, 2007 Vol. 109, Issue 1, pp. 27–51

3) “Norse Greenland Settlement: Reflections on Climate Change, Trade, and The Contrasting Fates of Human Settlements in the North Atlantic Islands” 2007 Andrew J. Dugmore, et.al.ARCTIC ANTHROPOLOGY, Vol. 44, No. 1, pp. 12–36,

4).. “Social Responses to Climate Change Among the Chumash Indians of South-Central California,” Chapter 11 by John R. Johnson in THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS.

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| **FRIDAY, March 24, electronic provisional outline/paragraph abstract of project due.** |

**C. The (old) Asian Synthesis** (For the predicaments of the present/future) **3/29-5/1**

1) India to China ...Sacred Spaces and Sacred Times?

(Ideas, some big)

1a. Ordering: (Synthetic facts, some small)

a). “Monsoon in Traditional Culture” (South Asia) by Francis Zimmermann MONSOONS EDITED BY Jay S. Fein, Pamela L. Stephens National Science Foundation. New York: A Wiley-Interscience Publication of John Wiley & Sons.

b). “Chapter 2, Paths of technical development,” from Francesca Bray, (1986) THE RICE ECONOMIES: Technology and Development in Asian Societies. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 27-61(notes on P. 219).

c) "Political Economy and Theology of Rice in Monsoon Asia" by Christopher A. Gregory (2006)

1b. Making it:

d). Shaw, J. and J.V. Sutcliffe (2003), “Water management, patronage networks and religious change: new evidence from the Sanchi dam complex and counterparts in Gujarat and Sri Lanka,” South Asian Studies 19, 73-104.

e). Meera I. Dass & Michael Willis (2002): The Lion Capital from Udayagiri and the Antiquity of Sun Worship in Central India, South Asian Studies, 18:1, 25-45.\*

f) “'The Grove is Our Temple’: Contested Representations of *Kaavu* in Kerala, South India,” by Yasushi Uchiyamada Chapter 8 in Social Life of Trees, 177-196.

1c. The Constructed China:

f) “Chinese Attitudes Toward Climate,” by Cho-yun Hsu, Chapter 8 in THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS

g) The Chinese House By Ronald Knapp (81 small pages, many of which have pictures....Fast read!)

2) Bali: The State of the Art?

Howe, L. E. A. “An Introduction to the Cultural Study of Traditional Balinese Architecture” Archipel 25: 137-158

Lansing, J. Stephen & James N. Kremer “Emergent Properties of Balinese Water Temple Networks: Coadaptation on a Rugged Fitness Landscape American Anthropologist, 95(1): 97-114.

Lansing, J. Stephen Chapter 4, “The Temple of the Crater Lake” Pp. 73-94(notes:172-174) from PRIESTS AND PROGRAMMERS: Technologies of Power in the Engineered Landscape of Bali (1st Ed. 1991)

Lansing, J. Stephen, Chapter 2, “Origins of Subaks and Water Temples” P.20-66 in Perfect Order (2006)

3) Visions of Japan

a) Knight, John (1998) “The Second Life of Trees: Family Forestry in Upland Japan” by John Knight Chapter 9 in Social Life of Trees.

b) “Feelings and Forces Behind the Flow of Trees in Japan” By Sharon Teeler

c) FLOWERS THAT KILL (2015) Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko

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| **FRIDAY, 5/5**  **Research Project Due** |

***Final Exam:* Thursday, 5/11/17 0900-1200**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS& PROCEDURES**

1) Participation and attendance are required for this course; I reserve the right to drop you from the course for regularly missing the class and deduct one or more complete grades for inordinate absences. Attendance will be taken periodically vis-à-vis end-of-class quizzes.

2) Seven (7) 1-2 page papers summarizing your scheduled Public Discussion reading. These papers should be written quickly, but carefully and sympathetically, concentrating either on an overview of the week’s assignment or detailing a small portion of the author’s argument. You should consider experimenting with different styles of writing. Your objective is to tell somebody else what is in the book (which you will doing every Friday). By the end of the class you will have produced a record about a very serious contemporary scientist/scholar’s understanding of the environmental history of a major portion of the globe—arguably one of the conditions for intelligent action for the next century or so.

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This piece introduces, along with Shaw’s work, an exciting and rapidly developing analysis of Indic cultural developments from the time of the Buddha (ca. 5th C BCE) through at least the time of the Islamic expansion to the East. For those of you interested in pursuing this work another chapter complementary to this one is “Willis, M.D. 2004. 'The archaeology and politics of time', in H.Bakker (ed.), The Vakataka Heritage: Indian culture at the crossroads. Groningen: Egbert Forstein, 33-58. Lots of Browney points for anyone who takes this material on as their research project.

3) A Research Project....which should be a 10-15 page critique of book, relevant website (e.g. http://forests.org/gaia.html; http://www.rachelcarson.org/; RealClimate.org) or study chosen with Damon’s input and consent. The amount of interesting and important work “out there” now is staggering. Jump in and learn to swim in some important pool. There is a condition for these projects/research papers: You must have at least 10 references no more than half of which can be off the www—**In short, you must go to the library (although I can imagine a very few projects for which this is not possible—i.e. where in today’s world must of the material is on the web.)**. An oral presentation of your projects will be made on successive Discussion sections in from 7 April. Joint projects *are* encouraged. Final written reports are due by noon on Friday 5/5. These papers need to be well organized. There must be a title, 50-75 word abstract, Introduction, Main section and Conclusion. **The use of charts, graphs and pictures is *expected*. Images may be easily employed in today’s world and can be, may be, useful additions for the thinking process.**

4) Grades will be derived from the Midterm exam (up to 20%), discussion participation (Fridays) and Public Discussion papers (up to 25%), Research Project (up to 25%), Final exam (up to 25%), and required Attendance (at least 5%) allowing an enormous fudge factor.

This course has been the center of my last extremely stimulating 25 years; I hope it will do something similar to and for you.