

ANG 6930 Socio-Ecological Systems: An Anthropological Perspective

Thursday. 10:40-1:40 Room: TUR 2306

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Office Hours: 1:30-3:30 - 12:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 and 2:00-3:00 Wednesday

Abstract: This graduate-level course delves into the interplay between human societies and their environments, exploring the dynamic and complex systems known as socio-ecological systems (SES). Employing an anthropological perspective, students will examine the interactions, feedback loops, tipping points, and adaptations that occur within these systems, encompassing a broad range of ecological scales from local communities to global networks.

The course begins by establishing foundational concepts in anthropology, ecology, and systems theory, providing students with the tools to analyze and understand the interconnectedness of human cultures and natural environments. Through a series of case studies and interdisciplinary readings, students will explore how different societies have historically and currently interacted with and influenced their ecosystems, shaping landscapes, economies, and social structures in the process.

Key topics include:

1. **Ecological Anthropology:** Understanding human-environment interactions through anthropological perspectives, including cultural ecology, political ecology, and ecological/environmental anthropology.
2. **Complex Adaptive Systems:** Analyzing socio-ecological systems as complex adaptive systems, studying patterns of resilience, feedback loops, and emergent properties.
3. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK):** Examining the role of indigenous and local knowledge systems in sustainable resource management, conservation practices, impacts of climate change, and community resilience.
4. **Globalization and Environmental Change:** Investigating the impacts of globalization, urbanization, and climate change on socio-ecological systems, with a focus on vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies.
5. **Social-Ecological Resilience:** Exploring concepts of resilience, vulnerability, and transformation in the face of environmental challenges, including the role of institutions, governance, community-based conservation, and socio-ecological networks.
6. **Ethnographic Methods:** Integrating ethnographic research methods to study socio-ecological systems, including participant observation, interviews, and collaborative research approaches.

Through a combination of lectures, discussions, case studies, and research projects, students will gain a deep understanding of how human societies and ecosystems co-evolve, addressing critical questions about sustainability, equity, and the future of socio-ecological resilience. This course encourages students to think critically, engage with diverse perspectives, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue on socio-ecological challenges and opportunities.

Readings: Assigned on a weekly basis from a variety of sources (usually provided in digital form). These readings will be posted online at: <http://jeffreycjohnson.org>

Tests and Projects: There will be a mid-term exam and a final class project. The final project involves the development of a paper on a subject of the student's choice. Students will present their paper projects during the final exam period and their analysis will be discussed and reviewed by fellow students as well as the instructor.

Assignments: There will be weekly reading assignments. These will be discussed in class.

Analytical Software: Several analytical programs will be used throughout the course. Most run in Windows only, so people with Macs will have to find a way of running Windows based software. The usual way to solve this is to use Boot Camp. You will need a copy of Windows.

Students can purchase a copy of Windows. Instructions for installing Windows on the Mac using Boot Camp can be found here: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201468>

Readings: <http://www.jeffreycjohnson.org/cv/readings/>

Programs needed:

UCINET 6

You can get a trial version for the semester at the Analytic Technology web site.

<http://www.analytictech.com/products.htm>

VisualAnthropac

You can get a free version at the Analytic Technology web site.

<http://www.analytictech.com/products.htm>

MyStat (a free mini version of the statistical package SYSTAT).

<https://systatsoftware.com/downloads/download-mystat/>

For those familiar with R, relevant statistical script can also be used.

Others to be announced later.

Grading: Grades will be based on class participation in discussions, tests and the final project.

Exams-25%

Class Discussions and Emgagement-25%

Final Proposal Project-50%

For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog1011/policies/regulationgrades.html>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Policy on Late Assignments and Make-up work

Assignments must be complete by due date. Late assignments will lose one third-grade for each day late, unless excused for university-approved absences with documentation. Make-up work allowed only for excused absences

Academic Honor Code

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else's published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same paper in different courses) will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the university's honor code. Writing assignments will be subject to and in accordance with the **student conduct code and academic honesty**. Assignments will use the tool Turnitin to assess plagiarism and are subject to [ChatGPT/AI](#) detection. If there is any evidence of violation of the [Student Honor Code](#), the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and be reported to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) Office. All assignments should have the following statement: "*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*" See: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you need special arrangements for notes, exams or homework, we will do all we can to help. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource

Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please make any requests by the second week of class. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center (<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>), 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Here are relevant topics that will be addressed on a weekly basis. Readings for each of the topics will be provided online.

1. **Ecological Anthropology:** Background.
2. **Social-Ecological Systems (SES) Framework in Anthropology:** Exploring the core framework for analyzing complex interactions between society and ecosystems.
3. **Methods in the Study of Socio-ecological Systems:** Network Analysis, Ethnographic Methods, and Cultural Domain Analysis.
4. **Resilience and Adaptive Capacity:** Understanding how socio-ecological systems withstand and adapt to changes.
5. **Common-Pool Resources:** Management and governance challenges associated with resources like fisheries, forests, and water.
6. **Sustainability Science:** The interdisciplinary approach to studying the sustainability of socio-ecological systems.
7. **Vulnerability and Risk Assessment:** Methods to assess the vulnerability of systems to environmental and social changes.
8. **Co-management and Community-Based Resource Management:** Exploring governance structures that involve multiple stakeholders.
9. **Ecological Economics:** Integrating ecological and economic principles to analyze and manage resources.
10. **Human-Nature Interactions:** Examining how human activities affect and are affected by natural systems.
11. **Climate Change and Socio-Ecological Systems:** Impacts of climate change on socio-ecological resilience and adaptation strategies.
12. **Social Capital and Collective Action:** The role of social networks and institutions in managing socio-ecological systems.