SPRING 2019
HISTORICAL ECOLOGY
COURSE NUMBER 10719 ANT

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo
Lecture sessions: Wednesday, 1:55 – 2:45 PM. Room Turl. 2349,
Friday 12:50 -2:45 PM, Room Turl. 2350.
Office: TUR: B131
Phone: 352-22947590
Office hours: By appointment.
Email: caycedo@ufl.edu

DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this course is to create a solid foundation in the study of the theories and methods in historical ecology today. This will be accomplished by evaluating the new trends that have driven historical ecology in the last ten years. This new approach demands an interdisciplinary view. The first part of the class will focus on the different epistemological approaches. We will look at the kinds of questions asked and the methodologies employed to answer them. The last part of the course will place emphasis on case studies where historical ecology has been employed to understand long-term regional dynamics of the relationship between humans and the environment. We will examine the theoretical and methodological relationship of historical ecology to biology, geography, and geology as well as to history. We will look at why historical ecology is a powerful approach to evaluating critical theories that range from biology to history. We will look at how the theories are evaluated and what factors favor their success or abandonment.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Books

Chapters from edited books:


There will be other assigned readings. Most of these can be downloaded as PDF files from the library service. Sometimes you will have to copy them from the library journals at the main library.

**EVALUATION:**

Evaluation will be based on the accumulation of points up to 100 (100 points =100 %).

Short paper (20 %), presentation of paper (10%), two exams, each one (20%) and class participation (30 %).

The paper should be 5 to 8 pages in length, double-spaced including bibliography. For the paper you should choose a region of the planet where you can study the impact of human activity on the environment as well as the impact of the environment on the population. The paper should follow the format guidelines of the journal American Anthropologist.

There is a large amount of literature to be covered in this class and each student must be able to discuss each of the articles. You are responsible for all of the readings. It always helps to write a review on each article or chapter that you read, and have notes on the topics that are relevant for the discussion, as well as questions on the aspects that you do not understand.

**Disclaimer:** Some adjustments may be made in the schedule and course requirements during the semester. All changes will be announced.

**ATTENDANCE** is required.

**GRADE SYSTEM:**

**Grading Scale** Grades will be awarded according to the following scale in effect by the university:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A complete listing of university policy pertaining to grades may be found at http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/files/handbook.pdf

**Classes and readings**

**Week 1. Jan. 9 and 11:** General presentation: What is historical ecology.

**Week 2, Jan 16 and 18:** Epistemology: Concepts and Research Program.


Week 3, Jan. 23 and 25, Epistemology: Concepts and Research Program.


Week 4, Jan. 30 and Feb 1: Historical ecology and climate change.


Cooper, Jago and Payson Sheets (editors). 2012. *Surviving Sudden Environmental Change.* University of Colorado Press. (selected chapters.)

Week 5, Feb. 6 and 8: Rapid climatic change and societies.
Cooper, Jago and Payson Sheets (editors). 2012. *Surviving Sudden Environmental Change.* University of Colorado Press. (selected chapters.)

Week 6, Feb. 13 and 15: Anthropogenic landscapes and history.


Week 8, Feb 27 and March 1: Landesque Capital.
Week 9: March 2 to March 10, Spring Break

Week 10, March 13 and 15: The Anthropocene or Capitalocene
Zalasiewicz, Jan, Mark Williams, et al. 2008 Are we now living in the Anthropocene? GSA Today: v. 18, no. 2
Moore, Jason W. 2016. Anthropocene or Capitolocene? PM Press (selected chapters)

Week 11, March 20 and 22: The Anthropocene and the Amazon and Mayalandia

Week 12, March 27 and 29: Historical Ecology and Maritime Ecosystems,

Week 13, April 3 and 5: Historical Ecology and Maritime Ecosystems.

Week 14, April 10 and 12: Social life of forest and historical ecologies.

Week 15, April 17 and 19: Paper presentations.

Week 16, April 25 and 26: reading days.