

# Ethnoecology

LAS 6290/ANT 6930/ANT4930

M periods 3-5

NPB 1216

Instructor: Richard Stepp  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Office phone: 392-0299

Ethnoecology is the study of the dynamic relationships between people, biota and the environment. This seminar will provide an overview along with an emphasis on how indigenous and small scale societies know and utilize natural resources and the implications for conservation and development. Additionally, the course will explore useful research skills and methods for students desiring to add an ethnoecological component to their existing or future research. Case studies will be examined from all over the tropics and world. Readings and discussions in the course will draw from both the social sciences and the biological sciences. The course is part of the interdisciplinary TCD (Tropical Conservation and Development) core curriculum, although students from any discipline are welcome and encouraged to take the course. There are no prerequisites needed.

## Texts

There is 1 required text for the course:

- 1) Anderson, E. et al.(eds) 2011. Ethnobiology. Wiley-Blackwell.

Additional readings will be made available through the class email listserv as pdf files at least 1 week prior to discussion.

See the following journals for articles of relevance to this course: *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, *Economic Botany*, *Journal of Ethnobiology*, *Conservation Biology*, *Human Ecology*, *Human Organization*, *American Anthropologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Ethnobotany Research and Applications*, *Ecology and Society*, *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*

## Course Objectives

- Students will gain a good understanding of concepts and principles in ethnoecology
- Students will gain an understanding of, and appreciation for, the importance of plants and animals in sustaining human culture.
- Students will learn how to properly and ethically conduct basic ethnoecological field research.
- Students will learn how ethnoecological knowledge can both inform and strengthen conservation initiatives
- Students will learn skills and methods from this course that they can apply creatively to their own studies and research.

Course requirements and grading policy

Everyone in class is expected to do all of the readings before the class in which they will be discussed. Your fluency in the readings is essential for the success of this seminar and your participation (along with being a discussion leader if enrolled at the graduate level) will consist of 20% of your grade.

## DISCUSSION LEADER

Students taking the course at the graduate level will also be responsible for leading/co-leading the class discussion for topics of your choice as designated in the course outline below. Discussion leaders will bring a list of questions and points of interest, designed to facilitate dialogue and debate with reference to the assigned readings. Note: this is not a mere summation of the material; the goal is to *creatively* lead the class in the exchange of ideas. You are free to choose which topic you would like to chair, and assignments will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Responsibilities will be equally divided amongst the class.

## RESEARCH/REVIEW PAPER AND PRESENTATION

Participants will identify a particular topic involving ethnoecology and prepare a report between 2000-2500 words as well as make a 15 -20 minute presentation in class. A one-page summary of the topic is due 10/8. Additional details will be clearly explained during the class.

## ETHNOECOLOGY GARDEN EDUCATION PROJECT

Students will identify a species (or genera) of interest growing or soon to be growing in the ethnoecology garden on campus. They will develop an education module for this species consisting of a monograph of around 1200-1500 words. Additional details will be clearly explained during the class.

No late assignments will be accepted.

Course grades are based on the following:

35% Research/Review Paper

10% Research Topic

10% Individual Oral Presentation

25% Ethnoecology Garden Education Project

20% Leading Discussion/Participation

Grading Scale	
A = 90 or above	C = 70 - 73
A- = 87 - 89	C- = 67 - 69
B+ = 84 - 86	D+ = 64 - 66
B = 80 - 83	D = 60 - 63
B- = 77 - 79	D- = 57 - 59
C+ = 74 - 76	E = 56 or below

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

### SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Note: case studies will be interspersed throughout the schedule. **Additional readings will be assigned that will be available electronically**

Week 1: 8/27

Introduction to the Course

Week 2: 9/3

Labor Day

Week 3: 9/10

The Nature and Scope of Ethnoecology, Biocultural Diversity

Readings: Anderson Ch 1,2,6,9, Maffi and Woodley

Week 4: 9/17

Cognitive Approaches, Ethnobiological Classification

Readings: Anderson Ch. 19, 20, 21, 22

Week 5: 9/24

Ethnoecology Garden

Week 6: 10/1

Research Methods in Ethnoecology

Readings: TBD

Week 7: 10/8

Subsistence Strategies, Wild Plant Use, Agriculture, and Ethnoecology

Readings: Anderson Ch. 13, 14,15,18

**Individual Paper Topic Due**

Week 8: 10/15

Acquiring Traditional Ecological Knowledge; Children and Ethnoecology

Readings: TBD

Week 9: 10/22

Ecological Biochemistry and Ethnoecology

Readings: TBD

Week 10: 10/29

Contribution of Ethnoecology to Understanding Human-Environment Interactions in the Past, Why the Past Matters, Historical Ecology

Readings: Anderson Ch. 7,10,11,16,17

Week 11: 11/5

Landscape Ethnoecology-Bartram's Travels: Prairie or Kanapaha

**Ethnoecology Garden Project Due**

Readings: TBD

Week 12: 11/12

Veteran's Day

Week 13: 11/19

Ethics, IPR related to Ethnoecology and Conservation

Readings: Anderson Ch. 3,4,8

Week 14: 11/26

Case Study Presentations

Week 15: 12/3

Case Study Presentations

The Future of Ethnoecology

**Final Paper Due**

## University of Florida Policies

### *Honesty:*

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

### *UF Counseling Services:*

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

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling; and
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

### *Software Use:*

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

### *Disabilities Accommodations:*

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.

### *Attendance Policy:*

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>