

ANTHROPOLOGY 523

Human Ecology

SPRING 2023

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.

Statement of Class Etiquette: This class will foster a tolerant and safe learning environment. All comments must be respectful.

Grading System:

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

Principles of Conduct

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at:

www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html. Students should also familiarize themselves with University policies regarding non-academic misconduct: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Information on the acceptable use of electronic resources can be found here:

<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up

their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students may find information on accommodations at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>. 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: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: pcdawson@ucalgary.ca).

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the Student at Risk line if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca. For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suwpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Campus Safewalk

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