Culture and the Environment  
U69 Anthropology 361  
Thursdays 6:30-9:00 pm

Instructor: Natalie Mueller  
Office: McMillan 344  
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 2-3:30, or by appointment  
Email: ngmueller@gmail.com

Course Description  
This course is separated into three parts:


2) Weeks 5-10: History of human ecologies: Beginning with the first modern humans, we will review hunting and gathering, the origins of agriculture and other food producing economies, the origins of state from an environmental perspective, and end with colonial and slave-based economies.

3) Weeks 10-16: Modern human ecology: Topics will include state interventions in food production, the development of industrial agriculture, the Green Revolution, the international politics of food production, GMOs, urban ecology, and alternative food production.

Course Requirements

15% Discussion  
5% Discussion leader  
20% Research Presentation  
30% 1st Exam  
30% 2nd Exam

Attendance and Discussions
Attendance at all classes is mandatory except in cases of illness, emergency, or pressing responsibility (ex. a job interview, your wedding). If you need to miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from one of your classmates - I don’t give out lecture notes. Part of every class will be a discussion of the readings and lecture topics. Everyone will pick one class session to lead discussion. You will come prepared to give a short summary of the content of the readings (5 min), and propose a few questions for discussion.

Research Presentations
Every class, one or two people will give a presentation on their independent research. This is an opportunity to explore topics that I have covered in more depth, or to branch out in a direction that interests you. Presentations should be about 15 minutes long and include a clear research topic or question. You are expected to do outside reading of academic sources (books, peer-reviewed journals) for your presentation. Part of your grade will be based on a bibliography of sources that you consulted in your research.

Exams
Exams will include multiple choice, true false, short answer, and short essays. You will be tested on material covered in lecture and on the content of the readings. The 2nd exam is not cumulative. Please check your schedules and make sure you will be able to make it to exam days.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings; Exams</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-Jan</td>
<td>Introduction; Cultural &amp; Biological Evolution</td>
<td>Spencer 1857 excerpts</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>22-Jan</td>
<td>Malthusianism vs. Marxism</td>
<td>Malthus 1798 Chaps. 1-5; Ross 1998, Chap 2; Lowy 2005</td>
<td>31, 23, 11: 65</td>
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<td>29-Jan</td>
<td>Cultural Ecology, Historical Ecology, Niche Construction</td>
<td>Steward 1941; Erickson 2008; Smith 2007</td>
<td>11, 27, 12: 50</td>
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<td>5-Feb</td>
<td>Human Behavioral Ecology; Political Ecology</td>
<td>Hudson-Dyson and Smith 1978; Netting et al. 1989; Butt 2012</td>
<td>21, 21, 10: 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Feb</td>
<td>Hunting and gathering</td>
<td>Kelly 1995; Sahllins 1972; Solway and Lee 1990</td>
<td>19, 20, 39: 78</td>
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<td>19-Feb</td>
<td>The origins of agriculture</td>
<td>Marshall and Hildeband 2002; Zeder and Smith 2009; Harlan et al. 1973</td>
<td>45, 12, 16: 73</td>
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<td>26-Feb</td>
<td>Diversity in food production systems</td>
<td>Cron 2012, Chap. 2; McDonald 2005; McCabe 1990</td>
<td>20, 30, 22: 74</td>
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<td>5-Mar</td>
<td><strong>Group Review, 6:30-7</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st exam, 7-9</strong></td>
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<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>Start Becker 2006 (Part I)</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>19-Mar</td>
<td>Food production and the origins of the state</td>
<td>Scott 2009, Chapters 3 &amp; 4; Shenk 2009</td>
<td>62, 20: 82</td>
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<td>26-Mar</td>
<td>Colonialism and slavery</td>
<td>Carney, Chap 3; Steinberg 2002, Chaps. 5-8</td>
<td>38, 66: 104</td>
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<td>2-Apr</td>
<td>Food production and the state in the 20th century; Industrial agriculture</td>
<td>Finish Becker 2006 (Part II); Foster and Magdoff 2000</td>
<td>130; 11: 140</td>
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<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>The evolution of urban ecology; environmental inequality in America</td>
<td>Steinberg 2002, Chap 10; Chaps. 13-14; Hurley 1997</td>
<td>15, 19, 32: 66</td>
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<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>Genetically modified organisms; alternative foodways in the 21st century</td>
<td>Pollan 2006, Parts I-II</td>
<td>275</td>
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<td>30-Apr</td>
<td><strong>Group Review, 6:30-7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2nd exam, 7-9</strong></td>
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**Required books**

Becker, Jasper  

Pollan, Michael  

Steinberg, Ted  
Course Bibliography

Carney, Judith Ann and Judith Ann Carney

Cronon, William

Erickson, Clark

Foster, John Bellamy and Fred Magdoff

Harlan, Jack R., J.M.J. De Wet and E. Glen Price

Hurley, Andrew
1997  Fiasco at Wagner Electric: Environmental justice and urban geography in St. Louis. Environmental History:460-481.

Kelly, Robert L
1995  The foraging spectrum: Diversity in hunter-gatherer lifeways. Smithsonian Institution Press Washington, DC.

Kloppenburg, Jack Ralph
2005  First the seed: The political economy of plant biotechnology. Univ of Wisconsin Press, Madison. (excerpts)

Löwy, Michael

Malthus, Thomas Robert

Marshall, Fiona and Elisabeth Hildebrand

Ross, Eric B and Corner House
Sahlins, Marshall David  

Scott, James C  

Shenk, Mary K, Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, Jan Beise, Gregory Clark, William Irons, Donna Leonetti, Bobbi S Low, Samuel Bowles, Tom Hertz and Adrian Bell  

Smith, Bruce D.  

1990  Foragers, Genuine or Spurious?: Situating the Kalahari San in History [and Comments and Reply]. *Current anthropology* 109-146.

Spencer, Herbert  
1881  *Progress: Its law and cause*. Humboldt, New York. (excerpts)

Steward, Julian H.  