

## **Geography 4340 Section 1: Human-Environment Interaction**

**Hybrid: 1/3 online and 2/3's face to face**

**MW 1:25 to 2:20 am face to face**

**Friday material will be online**

**Spring 2024**

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills, Associate Professor

Office: CAS 142

Office hours: MWF 9:00 to 10:00 am

In Person, By Appointment, or Via Zoom

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**Communications:** I encourage you to come see me during office hours, directly after class, or via Zoom. This is a good opportunity for you to look over your exams, review assignments, ask questions, or seek clarification. If you can not attend my office hours you may set-up an alternative time to meet. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. In your email, include your first and last name and that you are enrolled in Geography 4340.

**Required texts:** The first book is available for download from the course Canvas site. The 2<sup>nd</sup> book can be purchased at the UT Tyler bookstore or online at sites such as Amazon or Chegg.

1. Human Environment Interactions: An Introduction. Mark R. Welford and Robert A Yarbrough, 2021.
2. Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Patricia K. Townsend, 2018.
3. Additional readings will be posted to Canvas (see the schedule for details about the readings)

**Course description:** Study of the dynamic relationships between human cultures and their environments. This course will examine the strategies employed by humans to cope with challenges and take advantage of opportunities within their ecological environment.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To examine and synthesize key theoretical concepts, thinkers, and practitioners on human-environment interactions.
- To develop required skills to critically read, analyze, and interpret scholarly works and case studies.
- Apply the learned theories to modern environmental problems and issues.
- To develop and improve critical thinking and writing skills about human-environment interactions.

**Course format:** Class lectures and discussions will be supplemented by the required text, current events, videos, demonstrations, and guest lectures. Lectures and readings will not necessarily cover the same ground. Indeed, they are intended to supplement each other rather than to completely overlap. All students must participate in the class discussions. I strongly recommend that you attend every lecture and carefully study the assigned readings. I encourage relevant questions and comments during the lecture. A question you have other students might also have, and thoughtful remarks will make the course more interesting for everyone, including myself.

**Class Etiquette:** I expect everyone in the classroom to be **respectful** of each other and treat everyone with dignity – we all bring to the class different opinions and experiences. Some of these might be dissimilar to your own. I expect comments to be positive and objective and not judgmental and rude.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on two exams (mid-term and final), group discussion participation, Friday online materials and assignments (that will be due on Monday), a research paper that will include a proposal and a presentation, as well as participation in discussions and attendance

**Exams:** The mid-term and final exams will cover material from class including slides, discussions, presentations, guest lectures, readings, and videos. The midterm will cover material from the first part of the course; the final will cover material from the second part of the course including presentations by the class. Exams can include multiple choice, true/false, short answer questions, and essay questions dealing with major issues raised in the

course. Exams are closed book and closed notes. **Any communication via an electronic device during an exam will be considered potential cheating.**

**Discussions:** Each student will be required to participate in four group discussions throughout the semester. See the syllabus for dates. To facilitate discussion, each person will be required to turn in at least 3 questions and/or comments covering all of the readings prior to class. **Specific instructions will be posted on the class Canvas site. If you need help with this component, please ask me for further details. I will not accept late discussion questions and comments.**

**Research Proposal, Paper, and Presentation:** Each student will research, write, and present a 10-12 page paper. This will be a place-based research paper focused on any aspect of human-environment interaction that interests you using the approaches learned in class such as the ethnoecological approach, energetics, ancient landscapes, political ecology, applied ecology, and spiritual ecology. Detailed instructions will be posted on the class Canvas site. Presentations will occur towards the end of the semester.

**Class Participation and Attendance:** Students are expected to complete the readings for each class period and to participate in class discussions about the readings.

- **Make-up Policy:** Make-up tests will be given with a legitimate reason and in rare circumstances. Students should contact the instructor **prior** to the exam and not after if they will miss the exam. Make-up exams will not be given except when there are exceptional circumstances (be prepared to provide documentation of your circumstance, such as a doctor's note, police report, University-excused absence, *et cetera*).
- Grading scale:
 

A	90-100%	B	80-89.99%	C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%	F	0-59.99%		

**Course weights:**

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Group Discussions (4):	16%
Friday Online Assignments (4):	12%
Research Paper Proposal:	5%
Research Paper:	20%
Research Presentation:	5%
Class Participation (Attendance and Discussion):	2%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Incidence of Scholastic Dishonesty: You will receive an automatic zero on the assignment. All cases of plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic zero for the assignment!**

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**Cell Phones/Laptops:** Turn off your ringer and do not use your cell phone during class – this includes text messaging. If you are expecting an important call, please put your phone on vibrate and sit close to the door. This action will help minimize any disturbance to the class. **I will not be recording this class. Any video, photographic or audio recordings of the class must be approved by me.**

## University Policies and Information

**Withdrawing from Class:** Students are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from a course through the University's [Withdrawal Portal](#). Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. The number includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from any course has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean students receive a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

**Final Exam Policy:** Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:** If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete course requirements by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete the work for the course within the time limit, the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F or to NC, if the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

**Grade Appeal Policy:** UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of the course. If a student does not agree with the decision of the instructor, the student may then move the appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If the student is still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, the appeal moves to the Dean of the College offering that course, who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

**Disability/Accessibility Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), The University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If a student has a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, the student is encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact the student when the application has been submitted and schedule an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079."

**Military Affiliated Students:** UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military-affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

**Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct:** The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that “Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.” Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

**FERPA:** UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

**Recording of Class Sessions:** Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in the course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in the course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

**Absence for Official University Events or Activities:** All courses follow the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501](#)).

**Absence for Religious Holidays:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in all courses. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

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What we cover in the lecture on a day-to-day basis may differ from the attached schedule. I will inform the class via email if topics change.

Week	Day	Date	Lecture and Activities	Readings (Links to some materials are on Canvas)
1	Mon.	1/15	<b>MLK Day! No Class.</b>	
1	Wed.	1/17	Mapping the Course/Introduction	Syllabus
1	Fri	1/19	Listen to the Audio Reflection on the Science and Sociopolitical Implications of the Anthropocene and come prepared to discuss on Monday. Link is posted to Canvas	
2	Mon.	1/22	Lecture: Culture and Nature	Environmental Anth. Chap. 1 and Chap. 9 Human Environment Interaction Chap. 1 (Canvas)
2	Wed.	1/24	Lecture: Historical Beginnings	Human Environment Interaction Chap. 1 (Canvas)
2	Fri	1/26	Complete Friday Online Graded Activity on Calculating Your Carbon Footprint and Answer the Questions Posted to Canvas. Due on Monday 1/29	
3	Mon.	1/29	<b>Due:</b> Carbon Footprint Discuss Carbon Footprint Lecture: Historical Beginnings	Human Environment Interaction Chap. 1 (Canvas)
3	Wed.	1/31	Lecture: Emergence of Cultural Ecology <b>Census Day</b>	Cultural. Ecology. Chap. 1 (posted to Canvas) Environmental Anth. Chap. 2
3	Fri	2/2	Friday Online Graded Activity: Watch “N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman” and Answer the questions posted to Canvas	
4	Mon.	2/5	<b>Discussion 1: Hunter-Gatherer</b>	Canvas: <i>The Transformation of the Kalahari !Kung</i> by John Yellen, <i>The Plight of the Kalahari San: Hunter-Gatherers in a Globalized World</i> , and <i>Crowding among Hunter-Gatherers: The !Kung Bushmen</i>
4	Wed.	2/7	<b>Due:</b> Research Paper Proposal Lecture: Hunter-Gatherer	Environ. Anth. Chap. 5
4	Fri	2/9	Complete. Friday Online Graded Activity: Watch “N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman” and Answer the questions posted to Canvas. Be prepared to Discuss on Monday 2/12	
5	Mon.	2/12	<b>Due:</b> N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman Lecture: Domestication	People and Nature Chap. 2 (Canvas)
5	Wed.	2/14	Lecture: Pastoralists	Cult. Eco. Chap. 4 (posted to Canvas)
5	Fri	2/16	Watch Ted Talk: The Other Inconvenient Truth. Be prepared to	

			discuss this video on Monday.	
6	Mon.	2/19	Discuss Ted Talk Video Lecture: Agriculturalists	Environ. Anth. Chap. 6 Human-Environment Interaction Chap. 7 (Canvas)
6	Wed.	2/21	<b>Discussion 2: The Commons</b>	Canvas: <i>The Tragedy of the Commons Revisited</i> by Brett Frischmann in Scientific America, <i>Tragedy of the Commons</i> by Garrett Hardin, Science, 162:1243-1262, <i>No Tragedy of the Commons</i> by Susan Cox in Environmental Ethics, and <i>The Benefits of the Commons</i> by Berkes, Feeny, McCay, and Acheson in The Environment in Anthropology
6	Fri	2/23	Explore the Environmental Performance Index	
7	Mon.	2/26	Lecture: World Population	Environ. Anth. Chap. 10 People and Nature Chap. 6
7	Wed.	2/28	Research Paper Workshop	
7	Fri	3/1	<b>Mid-term Review</b>	
8	Mon.	Mar 4	<b>Mid-term</b>	
8	Wed.	3/6	Lecture: Ethnoecology	Environ. Anth. Chap. 3
8	Fri	3/8	Friday Online Graded Activity Defining Indigeneity. Be prepared to Discuss on Monday	
<b>SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES Monday March 11 to Friday March 15</b>				
9	Mon.	3/18	Discuss What it means to be Indigenous. Lecture: Energetics	Environ. Anth. Chap. 4 People and Nature Chap. 4 (Canvas)
9	Wed.	3/20	<b>Discussion 3: Ancient to Modern Landscapes</b>	Canvas: <i>The Golden Age</i> by Jared Diamond, <i>Global to Late Quaternary Megafauna Extinctions Linked to Humans</i> by Christopher Sandom et al., <i>Legacy of Uranium Development</i> by Anita Moore-Nall, and <i>Burn Pits: US Military Waste as War Violence</i> by Kenneth MacLeish and Zoe Wool
9	Fri	3/22	Read through the NRCS Document on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Watch the video	
10	Mon.	3/25	Lecture: Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes	People and Nature Chap. 3 (Canvas)
10	Wed.	3/27	<b>Discussion 4: Gender and Race</b>	<i>Gender and Climate Hazards</i> by Terry Cannon,

				<i>Micropolitics of Radiation</i> by David H. Slater and Rika Morioka, and <i>Geography of Race and Ethnicity</i> by Laura Pulido
10	Fri	3/29	Read Washington Post Article “In Maine, a return of tribal land shoes how conservation can succeed” Posted to Canvas	
11	Mon.	4/1	Discuss the Washington Post Article Lecture: Spiritual Ecology	Environ. Anth. Chap. 13
11	Wed.	4/3	Lecture: Political and Applied Ecology <b>Last Day to Withdraw</b>	Environ. Anth. Chap.'s 7, 8, 12
11	Fri	4/5	Friday Online Graded Activity “The Story of Stuff” Due on Monday April 8.	
12	Mon.	4/8	<b>Due:</b> The Story of Stuff Lecture: Capitalism and the Environment	Environ. Anth. Chap.'s 11 & 14 People and Nature Chap. 8 (Canvas)
12	Wed.	4/10	Research Paper Due Research Paper Presentations	
12	Fri	4/12	Watch the short Film “Kinabuhi” and be prepared to discuss on Monday	
13	Mon.	4/15	Discuss the short video Continue Research Paper Presentations	
13	Wed.	4/17	Watch Film: From The Ashes	
13	Fri	4/19	Continue Film “From The Ashes”	
14	Mon.	4/22	Finish Research Paper Presentations Final Exam Review	
14	Wed.	4/24	<b>Final Exam</b>	
14	Fri	4/26	TBA	
15	Mon.	4/29	Study Day No Class	
15	Wed.	5/1	No Class	
15	Fri	5/3	No Class	

