

9-2002

# GEOG 425.01: The Human Role in Environmental Change

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## Recommended Citation

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**THE HUMAN ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**  
GEOGRAPHY 425-01 - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 425-01 - FALL 2002

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Carlos Baied, Assistant Professor  
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See my homepage for more info!  
<http://www.cas.umt.edu/geography/courses/baied.htm>

**CLASS MEETINGS:** ROOM 344 Social Science Building  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 01:10 PM - 02:00 PM

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 12-01 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays after class, AND  
by appointment in 204 Social Science Building

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

If we are to understand environmental issues and to develop sound environmental policy, we must assess the role that people have played and continue to play in environmental change. More and more frequently we find public constituencies and private interest groups debating the nature of human impact on the environment and the best ways to minimize potentially harmful consequences of human activities. Unfortunately for those who would shape environmental policy, the present condition of earth's ecosystems is the result of a long history of human/environmental interactions, and not simply a product of recent activities. Our goal in this course is not to cover every possible aspect of human influence upon the environment, but to provide students with a basis for thinking about human-environmental systems and the tools necessary to assess our role. We are to trace human impacts through time on vegetation, animals, landforms, soils, climate, and atmosphere. And, we will focus on the complex interactions among history, culture, science, law, and economics inherent in designing and assessing environmental policy.

**EXPECTATIONS AND READINGS**

There are two core text for this course that will help us better understand the role of humans and anthropogenic impact upon the environment and landscape change. A set of additional literature will be available for photocopying and further reading. They will be placed on reserve at Mansfield Library. A basic course bibliography and suggested readings follows at the end of this outline. Reading assignments have been selected from a number of different publications, some available at Mansfield Library. The texts can be bought from The Bookstore at UM.

## Required Textbooks

Goudie, Andrew 2000. *The Human Impact on the Natural Environment* (Fifth Edition). The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Crosby, Alfred W. 1986. *Ecological Imperialism. The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*. Cambridge University Press, New York.

## EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

In order to foster analysis, classes will revolve around major concepts and themes that I will introduce. I expect all students to read ahead and be ready not only for questioning me but also to be questioned by me on the assigned readings. In addition, the final phase of the course will center on students' presentations of their own research with a follow-up discussion by all of us as well as by my suggestions to improve the written research report (term paper).

There are, however, some details to consider before we move ahead with this assignment: I NEED TO SEE a short, two-paragraph, term-paper proposal laying out the theme and issue/s you want to deal with before you actually move ahead on your research. I will meet separately with each of you to discuss the proposal and APPROVE it. The term paper will allow you to expand your knowledge on a topic, issue, region, or area of your choice. You are free to choose a topic that really interests you. If you need help with this task just stop by my office in 204 Social Science Building to discuss potential themes for the term paper. We will schedule this assignment as soon as we have a better idea of final enrollment, but I would like to know and see (in writing) your choice of topic/theme by October 15.

The research report of no more than fifteen double-spaced pages, including notes and references, will be due during the last week of classes (examination week). It may be submitted at any time but not before your oral presentation. This report should draw upon at least five sources other than assigned readings and should conform to the conventions contained in any recent edition of Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press). The research will serve as the basis for the oral presentation, roughly fifteen minutes in length.

Also, TWO EXAMS will be given following an essay-type format. I will give you details (dates and material) of this assignment as we move ahead and have a more or less definite enrollment count.

## Course Grade

You will be assessed in three areas: class participation (assistance, questions, real interest), two exams, and the short term-paper (research report) and oral presentation. The final grade will be based on performance in the above mentioned areas and as a percentage of the final grade:

Exam One	20%
Exam Two	20%
Term paper (written version)	20%
Term paper (oral presentation)	20%
Participation	20%

*Participation points* – you’ll get them all if you come to class (two absences are free – but not on exam days or on your oral presentation days!); if you do assignments on time; if you engage fully in discussions and demonstrate a commitment to improving your reasoning abilities in your writing and speaking.

### SOME SUGGESTED AND REQUIRED READINGS

- Atkiens, Peter and others 1998. *People, Land, and Time: An Historical Introduction to the Relations between landscape, Culture and Environment*. Edward Arnold, London.
- Baied, C.A. 1989. Transhumance and land use in the northern Patagonian Andes. *Mountain Research and Development* 9:365-380.
- Baied, C.A. and J.C. Wheeler 1993. Evolution of high Andean puna ecosystems: environment, climate, and culture change over the last 12,000 years in the Central Andes. *Mountain Research and Development* 13:145-156.
- Baied, C.A. 1999. Distribución actual de matorrales altoandinos de *Polylepis* en los Andes centro-sur: oscilaciones climáticas y el impacto de la actividad humana en el pasado. In *En los Tres Reinos: Prácticas de Recolección en el Cono Sur de América*, edited by C. A. Aschero, M.A. Korstanje, and P.M. Vuoto, pp. 129-139. Ediciones Magna Publicaciones, San Miguel de Tucumán.
- Bartlett, H.H. 1956. *Fire, primitive agriculture, and grazing in the Tropics*. In *Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, edited by William L. Thomas, Jr., pp. 692-720. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Bernhardson, W. 1986. Campesinos and conservation in the Central Andes: indigenous herding and conservation of the Vicuna. *Environmental Conservation* 13:311-318.
- Bryson, Reid A. and Thomas J. Murray 1977. *Climates of Hunger: Mankind and the World’s Changing Weather*. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.
- Burke, Albert E. 1956. Influence of man upon nature—the Russian view: A case study. In *Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, edited by William L. Thomas, Jr., pp. 1035-1051. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Bush, M.B., D.R. Piperno, and Paul A. Colinvaux 1989. A 6,000 year history of Amazonian maize cultivation. *Nature* 340:303-305.
- Butzer, Karl W. 1971. *Environment and Archaeology: An Ecological Approach to Prehistory* (Second Edition) Aldine Publishing Company, Chicago.
- Butzer, Karl W. 1982. *Archaeology as human ecology*. Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Cowan, C. Wesley and Patty Jo Watson (editors) 1992. *The origins of Agriculture: An International Perspective*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Flannery, K.V. 1965. The ecology of early food production in Mesopotamia. *Science* 147:1247-1256.
- Flores Ochoa, J.A. 1979. *Pastoralists of the Andes: the alpaca herders of Paratia*. Institute for the Study of Human Issues, Philadelphia.
- Glacken, Clarence J. 1956. Changing ideas of the habitable world. In *Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, edited by William L. Thomas, Jr., pp. 70-92. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Glacken, Clarence J. 1967. *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought from Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Goudie, Andrew & Heather Viles 1997. *The Earth Transformed : An Introduction to Human Impacts on the Environment*. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford.
- Gritzner, Jeffrey A. 1988. *The West African Sahel: Human Agency and Environmental Change*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

- Hesse, B. 1984. These are our goats: the origins of herding in west central Iran. In *Animals and Archaeology: 3. Early Herders and their Flocks*, edited by J. Clutton-Brock and Caroline Grigson, pp. 243-264. BAR International Series. BAR, Oxford.
- Holliday, Vance T. (editor) 1992. *Soils in Archaeology: Landscape Evolution and Human Occupation*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Markgraf, V. 1989. Palaeoclimates in Central and South America since 18,000 BP Based on Pollen and Lake-Level Records. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 8:1-24.
- Quammen, David 1997. *The Song of the Dodo. Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions*. Scribner, New York.
- Rinschede, G. 1989. Transhumance in European and American mountains. In *Human Impact on Mountains*, edited by N.J.R. Allan, G.W. Knapp and C. Stadel, pp. 96-108. Rowman and Littlefield, Totowa. New Jersey.
- Roosevelt, A.C. 1980. *Parmana. Prehistoric Maize and Manioc Subsistence along the Amazon and Orinoco*. Academic Press, New York.
- Sampson, R. Neil 1981. *Farmland or Wasteland: A Time to Choose*. Rodale Press, Emmaus. Pennsylvania.
- Sauer, Carl O. 1952. *Agricultural Origins and Dispersals*. The American geographical Society, New York.
- Sauer, Carl O. 1956. The agency of man on the earth. In *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, edited by William L. Thomas, Jr., pp. 49-69. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Silver, Cheryl Simon (with Ruth S. DeFries) 1990. *One Earth, One Future: Our Changing Global Environment*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.
- Simmons, I.G. 1993. *Environmental History: A Concise Introduction*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford.
- Steward, Omer C. 1956. Fire as the first great force employed by man. In *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, edited by William L. Thomas, Jr., pp. 115-133. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Veblen, T T. and V. Markgraf 1988. Steppe expansion in Patagonia? *Quaternary Research* 30:331-338.
- Zeuner, F.E. 1963. *A History of Domesticated Animals*. Harper & Row, New York.
- World Commission on Environment and Development 1987. *Our Common Future*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.