

University of Nairobi
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies
M. A. Anthropology

NAF 608: Ecology, Health and Disease
Course Outline 2017/2018

Lecturer: Khamati Shilabukha, PhD

Course objectives

At the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Internalise and discuss different anthropological approaches to ecology, health and disease.
- Relate the health to ecological outcomes
- Discuss the new directions in environmental anthropology

Course Content

1. Concepts in ecology, health and disease
 - a. Ecology
 - b. Ecosystem
 - c. Health
 - d. Illness
 - e. Disease
 - f. Population
2. Ecological and anthropological approaches
 - a. Principles of evolution,
 - b. human origins,
 - c. climate change, and adaptation;
3. Environment, population and implications of continued growth
 - a. Human population in ecological perspective
 - b. Implications of Ecological concepts and human population
4. Disease in ecological perspective;
 - a. Human adaptation to cold, heat,
 - b. High altitudes strenuous physical activities;
 - c. Biotic stressors,
 - d. infectious diseases,
 - e. modernization and chronic diseases; Disease as stress;
5. Environment and disease
 - a. Response to disease: biological and sociocultural;
 - b. Malaria and human adaptation;
 - c. Diarrhoea and environment;
 - d. Nutritional stress and human adaptation
6. Tropical ecosystems and some new directions in environmental anthropology
 - a. The science of biotechnology and human health.
 - b. The science of biotechnology and environmental health.

Reading List

1. Anderson, Warwick. 2006. *Colonial Pathologies: American tropical medicine, race, and hygiene in the Philippines*.
2. Arnold, David. 1993. *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth Century India*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
3. Burnet, F. M. *Natural History of Infectious Disease*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4. Ellen, C. 1982. Systems and regulation. In C. Ellen (Ed.) *Environment, subsistence and system: The ecology of small-scale social formations*, pp. 177-203. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5. Farmer, Paul. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities*.
6. Fitzpatrick, Kevin and Mark LaGory. 2000. *Unhealthy Places: The Ecology of Risk in the Urban Landscape*. New York: Routledge.
7. Golley B. Frank 1988. Human population form an ecological perspective, *Population and Development Review* New York: Population Council
8. Golly, F. 1984 Historical origins of the ecosystem concept in biology. In E. Moran (Ed.) *The ecosystem concept in anthropology*, pp. 33-49. Washington, DC: AAAS.
9. Haenn, Nora and Richard Wilk 2005. *The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture, and Sustainable Living*, New York: NYU Press.
10. Krieger, Nancy. 2001. Theories for Social Epidemiology in the 21st Century: An Ecosocial Perspective. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 30: 668-677.
11. Levins, Richard and Cynthia Lopez. 1999. Toward an Eco-social View of Health. *International Journal of Health Services* 29 (2): 261-293.
12. McElroy, A., and Townsend, P 2009. *Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective*. New York: Westview Press.
13. McMichael, A. J. 1995. *Planetary Overload: Global Environmental Change and the Health of the Human Species*. Cambridge: Canto.
14. Moran, Emilio F. 2008. *Human Adaptability: An introduction to Ecological Anthropology*, New York: West View Press.
15. Steward, Julian H. 1958. *Theory of culture change: The methodology of multi-linear evolution*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
16. Townsend P. 2009. *Environmental Anthropology: From Pigs to Policies*. Illinois: Waveland Press.
17. Tunde Babawale (Ed.) *The Place of research and studies in the development of Africa and the African Diaspora*, Lagos: Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC).
18. Zavarin, Eugene 1991. Comment on the medicinal value of tropical ecosystem. In Davis Kingsley and Mikhail S. Bernstan (Eds.). *Resources environment and population: Present knowledge, future options*, pp. 252-253. New York: Oxford University Press.

Mode of Presentation

1. Lectures and class discussions and debates
2. A personal take home assignment on an area to be given will account for 20 Marks of the Continuous assessment Marks.
3. A sit-in Continuous Assessment Test will account for 10% of the total score.
4. A final examination will account for 70% of the total score
5. Students are encouraged to undertake wide reading from various sources that touch on social science statistics and research methods.