Ancient Technology, Gender, and Environment

Main class instructor: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer

9 credits

Main Class

Anthropology 120

Ancient Technology, Gender, and Environment

Linked Class

Geography 139

Global Environmental Issues

Linked Class

Environmental Studies 260

Introductory Ecology

In this FIG, you will explore three different academic disciplines that examine the roles of humans in the wider world. In Anthropology 120: “Ancient Technology, Gender, and Environment” we will focus on the ways archaeologists study the past through analyses of ancient technologies, looking specifically at the impact the environment had on technology as well as the role of gender in the development of different technologies.

We will follow the development of human culture and technology through time and from many different perspectives including anthropological, art historical, scientific and ideological angles. You will gain hands-on experience with ancient artifacts and will learn about these technologies through actual manufacture, supplemented by readings, discussions, lectures, films, and library research. We will engage in the manufacture of stone tools as well as tools and objects made from wood, fiber, ceramics, glazes, antler, bone, copper/bronze and iron/steel.

By the end of the class, you will have a basic understanding of major phases in human cultural and technological development and how archaeology helps us understand our rich and diverse world. We will also draw on insights from the linked classes to deepen our understanding of the relationship between humans and the environment.

Geography 139: “Global Environmental Issues” — This class explores the global and local nature of environmental problems facing humanity, including climate change, food and energy scarcity, deforestation, biodiversity loss, environmental justice, and population growth. Through group and individual work, you will learn to analyze and address environmental problems on many scales. A key theme will be that what appear to be monolithic global environmental problems are actually many smaller, context-specific and place-dependent problems that when addressed with interdisciplinary and geographic perspectives can be understood and addressed at the scale of our lived lives.

Environmental Studies 260: “Introductory Ecology” — This class explores the relationships of organisms and the environment: population dynamics and community organization, human-environment relationships, and action programs. The primary goal of this class is to place ecological thought in an interdisciplinary framework that encompasses the ecology of humans as another unique species evolving and interacting within Earth’s ecosystems. We focus on the biosphere (i.e., only superficial treatment of the ecology of water, energy, chemical cycling, inorganic substrates, etc.), and introduce major branches of ecology from community ecology and ecosystems to population ecology to behavioral ecology.

more on the other side
Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here’s what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

• You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
• After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
• Wednesday, September 11, 2019 is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
• Friday, September 13, 2019 is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.