

Fall 2017 Anthropology 3C03
Health and the Environment: Anthropological Approaches
CROSS LISTED COURSE: Health, Aging and Society 3CC3

Emily Cowall, PhD, Instructor
Department of Anthropology, McMaster University
CNH 502
cowallee@ mcmaster.ca

Office Hours:
Thursday 9:30-10:15 am or by appointment

Class Schedule:
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
10:30-11:20 am
KTH B124

Course Description

This course focuses on the ways in which the health of human populations and communities are affected by environmental conditions; and in turn, how human populations affect the health of their environment.

We will investigate and apply a number of anthropological approaches to environmental health including medical ecology, biocultural anthropology, political-ecology, development, and globalization. The course engages with questions of how history, political-economy, ecology, and health inequalities, biology and culture affect environmental health. How does the past connect to the present and the future? What components will help to make human habitation on the planet more sustainable and perhaps improve environmental health for future populations?

To apply these concepts and approaches, our ethnographic site of investigation focuses on how health and the environment plays out in Mexico City, Mexico, including the health and environmental concerns linking rural and urban populations.

Assessment:

Class attendance and participation 20%

Mid-Term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 60%

Course Materials:

Text: See class schedule Reading List

Feature documentaries viewed prior to lecture

Important Notes about the Course:

Class cancellations

In the unlikely event of a class cancellation, students will be notified on Avenue to Learn, please check before leaving for class.

Class attendance and preparedness:

Uneven class attendance is *very* likely to have a profound impact on your ability to thrive in the course. Make every possible arrangement to ensure that you are able to attend classes. Ensure that you come fully prepared for class by engaging with the assigned materials.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained. (*Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide*)
 2. Improper collaboration in group work. (*Insert specific course information*)
 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
- (*If applicable*) In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link
(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

MSAF

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
 - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
 - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight.
 - The 'one MSAF per term' limit is retained.
 - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.
- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: [http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests or Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests%20or%20Relief%20for%20Missed%20Academic%20Term%20Work)

Courtesy in the classroom:

Our demanding course schedule requires your attention, note taking and participation. Please turn off your cell phones, and refrain from non class related web-surfing during lecture.

AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Marcia Furtado at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email furtam1@mcmaster.ca

Class Schedule:

Each **topic will be divided into 3 lectures that will be covered during 3 classes per week**

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

10:30-11:20 am

KTH B124

Avenue To Learn

All lecture slides and materials will be posted to Avenue to Learn after each class.

You are encouraged to take notes during lectures and to study the slides after each class and to prepare for exams.

Students requiring accommodations, and those requiring note takers must ensure they obtain their documentation from SAS, and to discuss note taking requirements with the McMaster Note taking services.

If you have official accommodations, please present your documents in the first week of class to your instructor.

Students wishing to participate in the note taker services please contact <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/being-notetaker-faq/>

Class Schedule and assigned preparation

Week	Topic	Readings + documentaries
1: Sept 5-8	Introductions	course materials, objectives and terms of reference * First class Wednesday 6 Sept
2: Sept 11-15	Anthropological perspectives	Biocultural Models in Studies of Human Health and Adaptation Ann McElroy
3: Sept 18-22	Environmental Impacts	https://youtu.be/8zGFvzMMO9w
4: Sept 25-29	The lived experience: people in the landscape	Syndemics and Public Health: Reconceptualizing Disease in Bio-Social Context Merrill Singer and Scott Clair
5: Oct 2-6	Globalization	https://youtu.be/ONUxYewyDdo
6: Oct 9-15	Mid Term Break	
7: Oct 16-20	Early warning: the intersection of ethnographic study and science	Patterns of Morbidity and Mortality in Mexico City David J. Fox
8: Oct 23-27		Mid-term Exam in 3 parts
9: Oct 30-Nov 3	Transportation	Middle-Class Residential Mobility in Mexico City: Toward a Cross-Cultural Theory David W. Coombs
10: Nov 6 - 10	Waste Management	http://www.greenpeace.org/switzerland/Global/switzerland/publications/Greenpeace/2012/chemie%20und%20wasser/Toxic_Thread_Mexico.pdf
11: Nov 13 - 17	Manufacturing	https://youtu.be/WUQgFzkE3i0 The Impact of the Maquiladoras on Health and Health Policy along the U.S.-Mexico Border Darryl M. Williams and Nuria Homedes
12: Nov 20-24	Water	https://youtu.be/dfcRW7slrPI
13: Nov 27 -Dec 1	Agriculture	https://vimeo.com/7207094
14: Dec 4-6	Course Conclusions	Closing arguments and findings. Final Exam Review

Biocultural Models in Studies of Human Health and Adaptation

Ann McElroy

Medical Anthropology Quarterly , New Series, Vol. 4, No. 3, Steps toward an Integrative Medical Anthropology (Sep., 1990), pp. 243-265

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/649097>

Developing a Critical Perspective in Medical Anthropology

Merrill Singer

Medical Anthropology Quarterly , Vol. 17, No. 5 (Nov., 1986), pp. 128-129

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/649010>

Toward a Political Ecology of Health in Medical Anthropology

Hans A. Baer

Medical Anthropology Quarterly , New Series, Vol. 10, No. 4, Critical and Biocultural Approaches in Medical Anthropology: A Dialogue (Dec., 1996), pp. 451-454

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/648654>

Should Medical Ecology Be Political?

Ann McElroy

Medical Anthropology Quarterly , New Series, Vol. 10, No. 4, Critical and Biocultural Approaches in Medical Anthropology: A Dialogue (Dec., 1996), pp. 519-522

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/648659>

Syndemics and Public Health: Reconceptualizing Disease in Bio-Social Context

Merrill Singer and Scott Clair

Medical Anthropology Quarterly , New Series, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Dec., 2003), pp. 423-441

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3655345>

Factories and Pollution

The Impact of the Maquiladoras on Health and Health Policy along the U.S.-Mexico Border

Darryl M. Williams and Nuria Homedes

Journal of Public Health Policy , Vol. 22, No. 3 (2001), pp. 320-337

Published by: Palgrave Macmillan Journals

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3343145>

Masculine Bonds and Modern Mothers: The Rationalization of Gender in the Textile Industry in Puebla, 1940-1952

Susan M. Gauss

International Labor and Working-Class History , No. 63, Labor History after the Gender Turn (Spring, 2003), pp. 63-80

Published by: Cambridge University Press on behalf of International Labor and Working-Class, Inc.

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27672845>

Toxic Cities

Patterns of Morbidity and Mortality in Mexico City

David J. Fox

Geographical Review , Vol. 62, No. 2 (Apr., 1972), pp. 151-185

Published by: American Geographical Society

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/213211>

Environmental Urban Lead Exposure and Blood Lead Levels in Children of Mexico City

Isabelle Romieu, Tania Carreon, Lizbeth Lopez, Eduardo Palazuelos, Camilo Rios, Yves Manuel and Mauricio Hernandez-Avila

Environmental Health Perspectives , Vol. 103, No. 11 (Nov., 1995), pp. 1036-1040

Published by: Brogan & Partners

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3432632>

Sources of Lead Exposure in Mexico City

Isabelle Romieu, Eduardo Palazuelos, Mauricio Hernandez Avila, Camilo Rios, Ilda Muñoz, Carlos Jimenez and Gisela Cahero

Environmental Health Perspectives , Vol. 102, No. 4 (Apr., 1994), pp. 384-389

Published by: Brogan & Partners

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3431627>

Middle-Class Residential Mobility in Mexico City: Toward a Cross-Cultural Theory

David W. Coombs

Human Ecology , Vol. 9, No. 2 (Jun., 1981), pp. 221-240

Published by: Springer

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4602600>