Minor in Environmental Anthropology

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HUMAN CULTURE AND ECOSYSTEMS

In recent years, the state of the environment has become the center of public concern. Environmental degradation has increased dramatically and threatens cultural and biological diversity. Since cultural diversity has been key to the adaptation and adaptability of the human species to environments from the tropics to the arctic, the physical and the social sciences must collaborate on environmental research in order to tackle this problem.

Environmental anthropology focuses on how culture mediates the dynamic interactions between human populations and their ecosystems. It studies specific patterns of economic activity, social and political practices, and institutional arrangements, as well as their environmental and health effects. It explores the ways in which different belief systems, religions, political ideologies, and cultural knowledge shape the practices and consciousness of people. All of these factors are considered when anthropologists work to explain human-environment interactions that lead to both local and global environmental change. The field is growing rapidly and becoming of greater importance not only in academia, but also among policy makers.

The new minor in environmental anthropology will help nurture a new generation of culturally and environmentally aware global citizens and practitioners who are prepared to take leadership roles in creating sustainable communities and in finding solutions for the uneven processes of globalization.

The interdisciplinary minor incorporates courses from the Anthropology Department and the Environmental Studies Program.

Requirements:
The minor consists of 6 courses (18 credits), including core requirements, electives, and a capstone.

Required courses:
Envsty 101 Nature of Environmental Problems  
Anth 106 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
Anth 263 Environmental Anthropology

Two electives chosen from the following:
Anth 317 Human Epidemiology  
Anth 341 Archaeological Method and Theory  
Anth 346 Culture, Globalization, and the Environment  
Anth 349 Anthropology of Development  
Anth 357 Culture, Disease, and Healing

An Environmental Capstone selected from the following options:
Envsty 301 Internship in Environmental Studies  
Envsty 401 Environmental Problem Analysis and Policy Formulation  
Enterst 478 Independent Study

Students majoring in Anthropology may not use more than two courses above the introductory level to count toward both the major and the Environmental Anthropology minor. Not more than one upper-level course (300- or 400-level) can be double counted toward another major or minor.