Minnesota State University Moorhead

ANTH 307: Ecological Anthropology

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3 Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: ANTH 110

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

An anthropological examination of cultural adaptation to the environment. Detailed analysis of the major human subsistence strategies in diverse ecological settings worldwide. MnTC Goal 10.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 04/11/2000 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

- 1. Examination of pre-industrial human adaptive strategies: hunting and gathering, horticulture, pastoralism, intensive agriculture.
- 2. Detailed consideration of the rise of industrialized food production and an assessment of its costs and benefits.
- 3. Biotechnology and GMOs.
- 4. Conservation of natural/communal resources.
- 5. Indigenous technical knowledge and its potential to contribute to sustainable development.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

- 1. Understand and appreciate the social and cultural adaptive strategies that humans groups developed in dealing with diverse environments prior to the industrial age.
- 2. Recognize the potential of this indigenous knowledge to contribute to sustainable solutions to future food needs, energy provision, and resource conservation.
- 3. Analyze and critically assess the sociocultural, economic, and environmental costs and benefits of industrialized agriculture, including biotechnologically engineered food crops.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 10 - People/Environment

- 1. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
- 2. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
- 3. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
- 4. Explain the basic structure and fuction of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

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G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted

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