

**ANTH 4400 SECTION 100
ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Fall 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Karine Narahara

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Email: karine.narahara@unt.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2 – 4 pm CT (hybrid), or by appointment

Office Location: Sycamore Hall 126

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm CT

Class Location: Wooten 212

Teaching Assistant: BSc. Itzel Verdin

Email: itzel.verdin@unt.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 1 – 2 pm CT, Sycamore 119.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental problems and debates are becoming increasingly urgent. How are communities and corporations dealing with these issues? And how can anthropologists collaborate with them? These are some questions we will address during the course. We will also explore two central concepts in Anthropology: nature and culture. The course involves problem-solving activities as well as career-focused activities.

PRE-REQUISITES

None.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand how the division Nature/Culture establishes the basis for the anthropological approach to environmental problems.
- Identify different modes of dealing with environmental problems.
- Analyze environmental problems through the lens of anthropology.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- Policy evaluation
- Problem-solving
- Cultural awareness
- Qualitative research

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE

- Read the material, taking notes of the main objectives and main arguments/concepts/ideas of each article/chapter
- Attend the classes and be engaged - bring questions and comments about the readings, take notes. **There is no wrong question!**
- Prepare and deliver original assignments in a timely manner (please check the **University Policy on Student Academic Integrity** and the **Department Policy on Student Academic Integrity** sections)

A NOTE ON READING THE COURSE MATERIAL

I expect you to **read** the papers and chapters assigned **before each class**. Look for the main ideas of the author in each reading. What are the concepts that the author is using? How do they dialogue with other readings assigned to this course? Write down comments, extract quotes, and most importantly: take notes of your questions and bring them to class. Keeping track of the readings **weekly** will be important in preparing your assignments.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The first class will be a presentation of the course syllabus and schedule, and the moment for the students to present themselves and their expectations. In the following classes we will discuss the readings, do practical exercises, and explore real-world scenarios.

COURSE READINGS

Introduction

Narahara, Karine. 2022. "Nature and Culture: general notes" (Unpublished).

Unit 1 – Nature and Culture as Anthropological Concepts

De La Cadena, Marisol. 2010. "Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections beyond 'Politics'." *Cultural Anthropology* 25 (2): 334-370.

For Graduate Students: Heywood, Paolo. 2017. "The Ontological Turn." In *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology*.

Von Redecker, Sophie, and Christian Herzig. 2023. "Can nature speak? A peasant perspective on human-nature relationship through multispecies communication." *From the European South* 13: 29-44.

For Graduate Students: Escobar, Arturo. 2020. "Thinking-Feeling with the Earth: Territorial Struggles and the Ontological Dimension of the Epistemologies of the South." In *Knowledges Born in the Struggle: Constructing the Epistemologies of the Global South*, edited by Boaventura S. Santos and Maria P. Meneses. Routledge.

Krenak, Ailton. 2019. *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World*. House of Anansi Press.

Unit 2 – Multispecies Ethnography

White, Thomas and Matei Candea. 2023. "Animals." In *The Open Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, edited by Felix Stein.

For Graduate Students: Van Dooren, Thom, Eben Kirksey and Ursula Münster. 2016. "Multispecies studies: Cultivating arts of attentiveness" *Environmental Humanities* 1-23.

Unit 3 - Defending the Land

Conell, Robert. 2020. "Maroon Ecology: Land, Sovereignty, and Environmental Justice." *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 25 (2): 218–235.

For Graduate Students: Biraben, Natalia C. 2023. "New Spaces for Contesting and Negotiating Indigenous Land Claims in Northern Argentina." *Journal of Anthropological Research* 79 (3): 352-375.

Sletto, Bjørn I. 2009. "'We Drew What We Imagined': Participatory Mapping, Performance, and the Arts of Landscape Making." *Current Anthropology* 50 (4): 443-476.

For Graduate Students: Ilboudo, Elisabeth K. et al. 2021. "Participatory Mapping with Herders in a Climate Adaptation Research Project." *Practicing Anthropology* 43 (1): 25-2.

Strang, Veronica. 2021. "Human and Nonhuman Rights to Water." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, edited by Mark Aldenderfer. Oxford Academic.

For Graduate Students: Salmond, A. 2014. "Tears of Rangī: Water, power, and people in New Zealand." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 4 (3): 285-309.

Unit 4 – Green Markets

Singh, N. M. 2015. "Payments for ecosystem services and the gift paradigm: Sharing the burden and joy of environmental care." *Ecological Economics* 117: 53-61.

For Graduate Students: Silva Garzón, D. 2026. "Symbols of Climate Action: Audit Labor and the Production of Carbon Credits." *Economic Anthropology*: e70040.

Unit 5 – Oil and Gas Landscapes

Guzmán-Gallegos, María A. 2019. "Controlling Abandoned Oil Installations: Ruination and Ownership in Northern Peruvian Amazonia." In *Indigenous Life Projects and Extractivism: Ethnographies from South America*, edited by Cecilie V. Ødegaard and Juan J. V. Andía. Palgrave Macmillan.

For Graduate Students: Szolucha, Anna. 2022. "Watching fracking: Public engagement in postindustrial Britain." *American Ethnologist* 49 (1): 77-91.

Unit 6 - Food and Autonomy

Bowens, Natasha. 2015. *The Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience and Farming*. New Society.

For Graduate Students: Garzón, Diego S. and Laura Gutiérrez Escobar. 2019. "Revolturas: Resisting Multinational Seed Corporations and Legal Seed Regimes through Seed Saving Practices and Activism in Colombia." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 47 (4): 674-699.

Unit 7 – (Socio)Biodiversity and Protected Areas

Escobar, Arturo. 1998. "Whose Knowledge, Whose nature? Biodiversity, Conservation, and the Political Ecology of Social Movements." *Journal of Political Ecology* 5: 53-82.

For Graduate Students: Gomes, Carlos V. A et al. 2018. "Extractive Reserves in the Brazilian Amazon thirty years after Chico Mendes: social movement achievements, territorial expansion and continuing struggles." *Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente* 48: 74-98.

Unit 8 – Disasters and Managements

Barrios, Roberto E. 2017. "What does Catastrophe Reveal for Whom? the Anthropology of Crises and Disasters at the Onset of the Anthropocene." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46: 151-166.

For Graduate Students: Faas, A. J. and Barrios, Robert E. 2015. "Applied Anthropology of Risks, Hazards, and Disasters." *Human Organization* 74 (4): 287-295.

Unit 9 - The Anthropocene

Sultana, Farhana. 2022. "The unbearable heaviness of climate coloniality." *Political Geography* 1-14.

For Graduate Students: Ludwig, Jason. 2021. "The Anthropocene Blues: Notes from Mississippi." *The Anthropocene Review* 8(3): 230-240.

OPTIONAL READINGS

Dona, H.S.G. et al. 2022. "Do bumble bees play?" *Animal Behavior* 194: 239-251.

Helmreich, Stefan. 2005. "How Scientists Think About 'Natives', For Example. A Problem of Taxonomy Among Biologists of Alien Species in Hawaii." *Royal Anthropological Institute* 11: 107-128.

ASSIGNMENTS AND FINAL EXAM

The evaluation will be based on Attendance, Assignments that must be delivered during the course and 1 Final Exam.

Choosing a Book and Making a "Book-self" (up to 60 possible points) – On Canvas

You will choose a book that represent your interest in environmental issues. Detailed instructions on Canvas.

Abstracts – 30 points each (up to 90 possible points total) – On Canvas

Along the course you will deliver 3 Abstracts based on selected readings.

Each Abstract should contain:

1. A Brief Summary of the Reading
2. Relevant quote
3. Reference List

Each one of the 3 Abstracts must have at least 200-400 words, excluding the quote and reference list.

Job Hunting - Internship Position (up to 120 possible points) – On Canvas

This assignment encourages you to explore real-world opportunities in the environmental sector. You will research a current internship posting, analyze its requirements, and articulate how your skills and academic background make you a strong candidate. Detailed instructions on Canvas.

Multispecies Ethnography (up to 210 possible points total)

You will develop a multispecies ethnography description focused on a non-human being inhabiting the UNT campus. You will observe, analyze, and creatively document the life, relationships, and potential futures of your chosen species.

This assignment is a three-part project.

. Part 1: In-Class Peer Workshop (up to 40 possible points) – In class

During one class you will pitch your preliminary project ideas to your peers, engage in collaborative discussion, and provide constructive, written feedback to at least 4 colleagues.

. Part 2: Description (up to 100 possible points) – On Canvas

The Multispecies Ethnography itself. Your ethnography should be based on a species found on UNT campus and should include:

- Observation methods (including direct observation)
- Description of how the species inhabits campus and how it is connected to other forms of life and elements of the landscape
- Futures you envision for this species.

Length: 2-4 pages, Font 12, Space 1.5.

You should include 2 to 4 images that illustrate your description.

. Part 3: Write-up (up to 70 possible points) – On Canvas

Prepare a text that connects your Multispecies Project to 2 Course Readings, including:

- One key quote or concept from each reading.
- How those readings helped you design your multispecies project.
- A reference list.

Length: 1 page, Font 12, Space 1.5.

Final Exam - We Mean Green Fund (up to 300 possible total points) – On Canvas

The Final Exam is divided into 2 parts. Pitch a project to the [UNT We Mean Green Fund](#). Your pitch should clearly articulate the environmental relevance of your project to the UNT community and explain why this project matters.

. Part 1: Video Pitch (up to 150 possible points)

Create a video (5 to 7 minutes) on the environmental relevance of your project to the UNT community.

. Part 2: Write-up (up to 150 possible points)

Prepare a text (minimum 1 page) that connects your We Mean Green Fund project to 2 Course Readings.

If you miss the deadline for the Final Exam - Part 1 or the Final Exam - Part 2 for any reason other than those which are excused (see the COURSE POLICIES – Credit Make-Up Policy session), you can submit the Final Exam on Canvas until Dec 8th, 2026:

1 day late – less 50 points of 150 points (total possible points per part: 100)

2 days late – less 80 points of 150 points (total possible points per part: 70)

Attendance – 5 points each (up to 120 possible points)

For each class that you attend you will receive 5 points, for a maximum of 120 points total (this means that if you have 4 unexcused absences you still receive the 120 points).

GRADES

You can earn up to 900 points. All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

810-900 Points = 90-100% = A
720-809 Points = 80-89% = B
630-719 Points = 70-79% = C
540-629 Points = 60-69% = D
0-539 Points = 59% and less = F

GRADE COMPOSITION

Book-self	60 points
Abstracts.....	90 points
Job Hunting.....	120 points
Multispecies Ethnography.....	210 points
Final Exam.....	300 points
Attendance.....	120 points
Total	900 points

COURSE POLICIES

Contacting the Professor

I am available in my office and online (Zoom) Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 pm CT. I am also available by appointment. You can contact me via email at karine.narahara@unt.edu. All emails must be submitted from your UNT e-mail address. Include the course number and section (**ANTH 4400**) in the subject line along with the topic of the email. Please give me 24 hours to respond before you send a follow-up email during the week, and until Monday if you send an email on the weekend.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments may be made available periodically throughout the semester. Please check on Canvas.

Withdrawing

If you are unable to complete this course, you must officially withdraw by the University—designated date (for a “W”). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that **you** must initiate. The Professor cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending or stop doing the assignments and do not withdraw, you will receive a final performance grade of 0 or “F”. [Here you can find information on Withdrawing.](#)

Credit Make-Up Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted unless you show a legitimate reason (i. e., medical reasons, family emergency, religious observance, University-excused academic or athletic event, work-related absences that have been discussed with the professor - UNT’s policy on authorized absences may be found [here](#)). Allowing alternative arrangements in such instances is entirely at the discretion of the Professor and Instructional Assistant.

Missing assignments or those submitted late as a result of an unexcused absence will result in a 0 (zero). Likewise, assignments will only be accepted if submitted through acceptable means (**i.e. no emails**).

Copyright

Some or all of the materials in this course may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Issues

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty that prevents students from completing a time-sensitive assessment activity, the Professor and the Instructional Assistant may extend the time windows at their discretion and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. **Students should immediately report any problems to the Instructional Assistant** and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or (940) 565-2324. They are available during the weekends (<https://aits.unt.edu/support/index.html>). The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues, but please be aware that this may take some time.

University Policy on Student Academic Integrity

(Policy and Procedures number 06.003)

Academic Misconduct: “Academic Misconduct,” in this policy, means the intentional or unintentional action by a student to engage in behavior in the academic setting

including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic misconduct, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage.

- A. **Cheating**: “Cheating,” in this policy, means the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to: 1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments; 2. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; 3. use, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to instructors, staff members, or other students of the University; 4. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor; 5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
- B. **Fabrication**: “Fabrication,” in this policy, means falsifying or inventing any information, data, or research outside of a defined academic exercise.
- C. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** (i.e. collusion): “Facilitating academic dishonesty,” in this policy, means helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.
- D. **Forgery**: “Forgery,” in this policy, means intentionally falsifying or altering a score, grade, or official academic University record or the signature of another.
- E. **Plagiarism**: “Plagiarism,” in this policy, means use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to: 1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment or citation, or 2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
- F. **Sabotage**: “Sabotage,” in this policy, means acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Department Policy on Student Academic Integrity

The Department of Anthropology expects its students to abide by the high ethical standards of practicing professionals within the field of anthropology. The Department does not tolerate cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, or sabotage. **This includes the use of unauthorized professional writing/editing services and generative AI for assignments.** Students are expected to follow the [American Anthropological Association’s code of ethics](#): “In their capacity as researchers, anthropologists are subject to the ethical principles guiding all scientific and scholarly conduct. They must not plagiarize, nor fabricate or falsify evidence, or knowingly misrepresent information or its source” (<http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>).

Students are encouraged to use the [UNT Writing Center](#). For additional resources to help with paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see the [Department of Anthropology Writing Guide](#). For information on the

University's policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

Course Policy and Procedures on Student Academic Integrity:

A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Any student suspected of cheating in this course will receive at the very least a 0 (zero) on the assignment or up to an F in the course.

First-time student offenders who commit academic dishonesty will receive a 0 (zero) on the assignment in which academic dishonesty was found. Students suspected of multiple academic dishonesty offenses will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic "F" in the course.

If a student is suspected of using generative IA, the burden of proof to show originally sourced material is on the student.

Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a review; a guilty finding will merit an automatic "F" in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university.

A report of academic integrity violation shall be filed against the student with UNT, and the student will have an opportunity to appeal the decision according to UNT's appeal process.

APPENDIX 1: UNT POLICIES

ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member before implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit [UNT's Code of Student Conduct](#) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains [Eagle Connect](#).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](#) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648. You can find more information [here](#).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

APPENDIX 2: ACADEMIC SUPPORT & STUDENT SERVICES

Student Support Services

- [CARE Team](#)

- [Housing Insecurity](#)
- [Diamond Eagle Clothing Closet](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Food Pantries](#)

Mental Health

UNT provides [mental health resources](#) to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [Individual Therapy](#)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Center](#)

The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change at the professor's discretion. Please check Canvas Announcements and your email regularly to be apprised of any changes.