Hunters & Gatherers 01:070:361

Spring 2018, Starts 01/16

Cathryn Townsend  
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Room 309, Biological Sciences Building, Douglass  
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00pm – 4.00pm  
Classroom Hours: Tuesdays 10:55am – 12:15pm, BIO 205 DC and Fridays 10:55 – 12.1pm, BIO 205 DC  

Credits:  
Course Number: 01:070:361

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the anthropology and archaeology of the human foraging ecology. It will also examine the kinds of social organization that the foraging ecology affords.

Structure of the Course

This course will be taught as a series of lectures and seminars. The lectures will take the form of a traditional classroom lecture with room for questions and answers, and sometimes ethnographic films about hunter-gatherer societies. The seminars will be based on student presentations, classroom discussion and activities that get students to think critically and creatively about the themes of the course. Each week there will be a different topic; the topic will be the same for the lecture and the seminar for that week. There will be one essential reading which you must have read comprehensively before coming to the lecture on Tuesdays. I recommend that you make notes summarizing the reading. In general, it is better to make handwritten notes that summarize the main ideas in a reading. Highlighting sections of text does not have the same effect of focusing your mind on key ideas.

There will also be a supplementary reading for those students who are interested in expanding their knowledge of a particular topic. Students will take turns over the course of seminars to deliver 15-20 minute presentations. These presentations should synthesize ideas covered in the essential and supplementary readings. The presentations are a crucial element of course assessment, thus you are advised to prepare carefully for them. We will arrange dates for the presentations during the general orientation class (Tuesday, January 16th).

Course Requirements

Attendance, Reading and Discussion: 25 points
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to have read the assigned material for each class meeting and to actively contribute to discussion of the issues. Please be prepared to speak up in class. The extent to which you contribute in ways that demonstrate you have read the assigned material will determine your final points for this section. The points you receive are not awarded for class attendance. However, you will be penalized for unexcused absences – see below.

All absences must be formally reported using Rutgers Student Self-Reporting Absences Website. For more information about this system, see: https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/help.jsp
Any unreported absence will result your final grade to be lowered by 10 points. Please do not email me to report your absence; use the Self-Reporting Absences Website.

More than one unexcused absence and/or late arrival (defined as more than 15 minutes after class has started) from class will lower your final grade by 10 points. Each additional unexcused absence or late arrival will lower your final grade by an additional 10 points. Documentation of an excused absence must be submitted to me within 2 weeks of missing class or the absence will be considered unexcused. Such documentation may be handed to me in person during class, or emailed to me. Please do not approach me to ask to be excused from class without the necessary documentation.

**Seminar Presentations: 25 points**

Students will take turns to deliver 15-20 minute presentations that address the week's topic, using the essential reading for that week and the supplementary reading, which will be placed on Sakai. You may also refer to sources that you have researched independently (using materials available through the Rutgers Library catalogue). The presentations are a crucial element of course assessment, thus you are advised to prepare carefully.

**Mid-term Assignment: 25 points**

The mid-term assignment is due by Sunday 4th March. You will be required to write a 2,000 word essay which discusses topics covered in Weeks 1-7 by referring to an ethnography of a hunter-gatherer society. Please ensure that your essay is well-structured and proof-read for errors in spelling and grammar. Further details about the assignment will be discussed in class.

**Final Exam: 25 points**

There will be a final exam comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions.

**Academic Integrity**

All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy, are available online at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu I encourage you to study this website carefully for information about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly acknowledge the ideas and words of other. The complete Policy can be viewed at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy
Absence Reporting

If you will be absent, please email me and report your absence through the online absence reporting system: https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/

For my policy on absences, please refer to the section on Attendance, Reading & Discussion under Course Requirements (above).

Required Book


Course Outline

General Orientation Class
Tuesday, 16 January

Week 1: Hunter-Gatherers & Anthropology

Lecture 1
Friday, 19 January


Seminar 1
Tuesday, 23 January

Week 2: Simple & Complex Hunter-Gatherer Societies

Lecture 2
Friday, 26 January


Seminar 2
Tuesday, 30th January

Seminar Presentations: Grace

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Week 3: Woodburn’s Distinction

Lecture 3
Friday, 2 February


Supplementary Readings:


And/Or


Seminar 3
Tuesday, 6 February

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Week 4: Egalitarianism

Lecture 4
Friday, 9 February


Seminar 4  
Tuesday, 13 February  
Seminar Presentations: Alberto

Week 5: Men, Women, & Foraging

Lecture 5  
Friday, 16 February


Seminar 5  
Tuesday, 20 February

Seminar Presentations: Rachel

Week 6: Environment, Evolution & Anthropological Theory

Lecture 6  
Friday, 23 February


Seminar 6  
Tuesday, 27 February

Seminar Presentations: Lilah
Week 7:

Lecture 7: Hunter-Gatherers & Prehistory (Guest Lecture)  
Friday, 2 March

Essential Reading: tbc  
Supplementary Reading: tbc

Seminar 7  
Tuesday, 6 March

No seminar presentations this week.

Week 8: Foraging & Subsistence

Lecture 8  
Friday, 9 March

Essential Reading:  

Supplementary Reading: tbc

Spring Recess: 10-18 March

Seminar 8  
Tuesday, 20 March

Seminar Presentations: Ashley

Week 9: Mobility

Lecture 9  
Friday, 23 March


Supplementary Reading: tbc

Seminar 9  
Tuesday, 27 March
Seminar Presentations: Liana

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**Week 10: Technology**

**Lecture 10**
Friday, 30 March

**Essential Reading:**


**Seminar 10**
Tuesday, 3 April

Seminar Presentations: Marc

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**Week 11: Sharing, Exchange, & Land Tenure**

**Lecture 11**
Friday, 6 April

**Essential Reading:**


Supplementary Reading: tbc

**Seminar 11**
Tuesday, 10 April

Seminar Presentations: Catalina

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**Week 12: Group Size & Demography**

**Lecture 12**
Friday, 13 April

Essential Reading:


Supplementary Reading: tbc

Seminar 12
Tuesday, 17 April

Seminar Presentations: Hye-youn

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Week 13: Nongegalitarian Hunter-Gatherers

Lecture 13
Friday, 20 April

Essential Reading:


Seminar 13
Tuesday, 24 April

Seminar Presentations:

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Week 14:

Exam Review
Friday, 27 April

Reading Day
Tuesday, 1 May

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EXAM

Likely Date: Friday, 4 May