

88-89/21

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

UWUCC USE ONLY

Number _____/_____
Action _____
Date _____

I. TITLE/AUTHOR OF CHANGE

COURSE/PROGRAM TITLE AN 420 Cultural Ecology
DEPARTMENT Sociology-Anthropology
CONTACT PERSON Dr. Sarah Neusius

II. APPROVALS

Laurie Kuckman
Department Curriculum Committee

[Signature]
Department Chairperson

College Curriculum Committee

[Signature]
College Dean

Director of Liberal Studies
(where applicable)

Provost
(where applicable)

*COLLEGE DEAN MUST CONSULT WITH PROVOST BEFORE APPROVING CURRICULUM CHANGES. APPROVAL BY COLLEGE DEAN INDICATES THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE IS CONSISTENT WITH LONG RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENTS, THAT ALL REQUESTS FOR RESOURCES, MADE AS PART OF THE PROPOSAL, CAN BE MET, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.

III. TIMETABLE

Date submitted
to UWUCC 11-1-88

Semester/Year to be
implemented Fall 1989

Date to be published
in catalog 1990

IV. DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. Catalog description

AN 420 Cultural Ecology 3 sh.
Prerequisites: AN 110 or AN 211

Introduces the student to the field of ecological anthropology by exploring the concept of the ecosystem in relationship to varying human adaptive strategies. Illustrates the importance of understanding man-environment interactions both in studying the developing world and in investigating the past.

COURSE ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

A INTRODUCTION In the 1950's with the return of broad cultural evolutionary thinking, an effort was launched within anthropology to reexamine the works of nineteenth century evolutionists and to promote the development of a science of culture. Culture ecology stresses the role of the interaction of natural conditions, e.g. climate, with cultural factors such as technology and economics as the cause of both cultural differences and similarities.

A1 This course, now traditionally taught in most anthropology departments, fills an academic need by providing broad macro-level cultural theory concerning cultural evolution. It is an important course for students in archaeology because it discusses the concepts such as cultural diffusion and the development of New and Old World states and empires. Secondly, it introduces ecological conceptual models, e.g. land-carrying capacity, in an attempt to make the study of culture change more scientific. It is also an important course for students of culture theory as it provides the framework for understanding the 19th and 20th Century Evolutionism, a major component of anthropological theory.

A2 This course does not require changes in any other courses or programs in the department.

A3 This course will be offered as a standard course with a lecture and discussion format.

A4 No, this course has not been offered before.

A5 This course is not intended to be dual level.

A6 This course is not to be taken for variable credit.

A7 Yes, most departments offer this course. See attached course descriptions.

A8 This course would be recommended by any outside evaluator of this department but it is not required by any professional society.

B. INTERDISCIPLINARY IMPLICATIONS

B1 This course will be taught by one instructor.

B2 It is not anticipated that any additional or corollary course(s) will be needed.

B3 This course does not overlap with any other courses at the University. It is linked, as mentioned in the introduction, with two courses, World Archaeology and the Anthropology Seminar, as it discusses broad cultural evolutionary theory. It is also indirectly linked to courses in geography, e.g. human geography. However, this course focuses on the traditional domain of cultural anthropology, e.g. multi-lineal evolutionary theory, etc. and is unique.

B4 The course is only appropriate for majors in anthropology but seats can be made available for continuing education.

C. IMPLEMENTATION

C1 Resources

- a. No new faculty are needed to teach this course
- b. Current general classroom space is available
- c. This is a theory based course; no equipment is necessary
- d. No supplies are needed
- e. Library holdings are adequate concerning journals and books
- f. No travel funds are necessary

C2 No grant funds are associated with this course

C3 This course will be offered no more than every two years

C4 One section will be offered at a time

C5 Fifteen to twenty students per section are anticipated

C6 No enrollment limits apply

C7 This course will not be a curriculum requirement

D. MISCELLANEOUS

No additional information is necessary