November 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Townshend  
   Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs  

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Master of Applied Anthropology (PCC log no. 13014)

The proposal to modify the Master of Applied Anthropology has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2014. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials.

MDC/

Enclosure

cc: Marilee Lindemann, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid  
    Reka Montfort, University Senate  
    Erin Howard, Division of Information Technology  
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment  
    Anne Turkos, University Archives  
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
    Alex Chen, Graduate School  
    Wayne McIntosh, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
    Paul Schackel, Department of Anthropology
College/School: College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (01202800)
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits:
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: Anthropology (1280501)
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits:

Type of Action (choose one):

- [√] Curriculum change (including informal specializations)
- [ ] Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- [ ] Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- [ ] Suspend/delete program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

A new course, ANTH722: Ecological Anthropology is to be added to the graduate curriculum. This new course will satisfy the same requirement as ANTH720: Theory and Practice in Applied Biological Anthropology.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair  
   [Signature]  6/27/13

2. Department Chair  
   [Signature]  7/2/13

3. College/School PCC Chair  
   [Signature]  8/29/13

4. Dean  
   [Signature]  8/29/13

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)  
   [Signature]  8/29/13

6. Chair, Senate PCC  
   [Signature]  8/29/13

7. University Senate Chair (if required)  
   [Signature]  5-NOV-2013

8. Senior Vice President and Provost  
   [Signature]  5-NOV-2013
RATIONALE FOR ADDING ANTH722: ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AS A CORE REQUIREMENT FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY MAA AND PHD DEGREES

Due to recent faculty retirements and new hires the expertise of the Anthropology department has shifted. ANTH722: Ecological Anthropology more closely matches the expertise and research interests of our current tenure-track faculty. This new offering will give MAA and PhD Students the necessary background for internships, examinations, and dissertation work.

IMPACTS OF CURRICULUM CHANGE

ANTH722 will be offered in the Spring of 2014 and will continue to be offered every Spring term. There are no plans to offer ANTH720: Advanced Studies in Theory and Practice of Applied Biological Anthropology in the future. But because the proposed requirements will allow students to take either ANTH722 or ANTH720, current students will not be impacted. As students outside Anthropology rarely register for ANTH720, there should be little to no impact on them.

NEW COURSE DESCRIPTION

ANTH722 Ecological Anthropology

An overview of some important approaches to ecological anthropology. Population, systems, community, political, behavioral and evolutionary ecology will be examined as they have been applied to a range of anthropological questions. Complexity theory (nonlinear dynamics) and topics in game theory will also be addressed. Students will map the field of ecological anthropology and to assess the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary approaches, methods and theories.
## MAA Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Requirements</th>
<th>Proposed Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORE Courses (18 credits)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 601: Applied Anthropology (3 credits)</td>
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<td>ANTH 630: Quantification and Statistics in Applied Anthropology (3 credits)</td>
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<td>ANTH 606: Qualitative Methods in Applied Anthropology (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 720: Advanced Studies in Theory and Practice of Applied Biological Anthropology (3 credits)</td>
<td>ANTH 720: Advanced Studies in Theory and Practice of Applied Biological Anthropology (3 credits) OR ANTH 722: Ecological Anthropology (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 760: Development of Social/Cultural Theory (3 credits)</td>
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<td>Internship Sequence (12 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Coursework (12 credits)</td>
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## PHD Degree Requirements

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<td>ANTH 740: Anthropological Theories of the Past (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Coursework (credits vary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation credits</td>
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ANTH 722
Ecological Anthropology
Spring 2014

Dr. Sean S. Downey
Department of Anthropology
University of Maryland

Class Location: TBD
Office Hours: Woods Hall 1106, Wednesday 9:30-11:30 AM and by appointment
Office Telephone: 301-405-1427
Email: sdowney2@umd.edu

Course Description

This course is intended to provide an overview of some important approaches to ecological anthropology. We will examine population, systems, community, political, behavioral and evolutionary ecology as they have been applied to a range of anthropological questions. We will also consider complexity theory (nonlinear dynamics) and touch upon topics in game theory. Our aim is to help you map the field of ecological anthropology and to assess the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary approaches, methods and theories. Note that this seminar is required for all students in the graduate program in the Anthropology Department.

The course is structured as a seminar in which participants will have the opportunity to introduce the readings and lead discussion. Periodically, guest lecturers will be invited to provide access to experts in the subdomains of ecological anthropology. Along with readings, lectures and discussions, this course will expose you to some of the rudimentary logic of quantitative modeling. However, NO mathematical or computer skills are required in this course.

Course Requirements

1) Read all required readings in advance of each class session. The only book that you must purchase for the course is a short, low-priced publication by Len Fisher (2009):

http://www.amazon.com/Perfect-Swarm-Science-Complexity-Everyday/dp/B004lQ0ERI

All other readings, along with syllabus and related course materials, will be available from our course webpage

2) Here we carry on the ancient Oxbridge tradition of tutorial essays, amended to suit the seminar format. You will write ten short synopses (1-2 pages, double-spaced) of the key arguments in selected weekly readings over the course of the semester. These short essays are due the week that the relevant readings are discussed, and uploaded to our
course website by the start of class. Late essays will not be accepted. Use footnotes and bibliographic citations. Avoid using direct quotations; accurate paraphrasing is very strongly preferred. Because only ten essays are required over the entire semester, you will be able to skip five weeks. It will be wise to save at least a couple of the “free passes” for the end of the semester!

For each short essay, your task is to write a few paragraphs summarizing the essence of whatever arguments appear to link the assigned readings of that week. For example, if you were reading about the Prisoner’s Dilemma model, you would be expected to summarize the arguments that link this idea in game theory to real-world situations. In addition you must provide 2-3 pithy questions following (on a separate page from) your essay for discussion in class. Note that you are not being asked to critique the readings, but rather to set out the central thesis persuasively, in such a way as to highlight the strengths and possibilities of each approach. Save your critiques for our seminar discussions, and use the essays to explore the attractions of each of the approaches we will consider.

Dr. Downey will read and critique these short essays according to three criteria: (1) how well you captured the essential argument(s); (2) how clearly you expressed your understanding of the arguments (and evidence if applicable); and, (3) the thoughtfulness of the questions you raise about it. The essays will be graded on a numerical scale from 1 to 10, with “10” representing perfection. If (as will frequently be the case) the readings make several distinct arguments, summarize what strikes you as most important and interesting, but don’t exceed two double-spaced pages for the entire essay.

3) Active participation in class discussions of the readings. Your contributions of pithy questions for the discussion are essential for getting a good grade. Each week, one or more students will be assigned the role of discussion leader(s) for the following week. How you choose to fulfill this weighty obligation is up to you, but at the very least you should prepare a brief spoken summary and a series of “talking points” related to the specific readings for the week. Of course you can do something more elaborate, but before you prepare a 30 minute film or interpretive dance piece on the week’s topic remember that the idea is to involve the whole class in the conversation.

4) A final research paper, 10-15 pages in length (double-spaced), on a topic of your choice. You should discuss the topic for this final paper with Dr. Downey before you go forward with it. You are encouraged to consult with your fellow students in addition to Dr. Downey. This final assignment may take a number of forms and formats: (a) research article; (b) a NSF style research proposal; or (c) a report based on a pilot study of a relevant dataset. You may collaborate with others in the class, but each collaborator must write their own final paper. The final paper will be due on Monday, May 2, and must be submitted in electronic form via the course website.

Grading: short papers (50%) + participation (20%) + final project (30%) = 100%.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Introduction to Ecological Anthropology</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>Ecological Anthropology / Scale &amp; Evolutionary Forces</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>Community Ecology / Humans &amp; Biotic Diversity</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Foraging Theory: Models and Tools</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
<td>Behavioral Ecology: Applications to Humans</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Niche &amp; Niche Construction / Swarm Intelligence</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Political Ecology: History, Concepts and Methods</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Globalization, Development and Sustainability</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Institutions, Cooperation / Group Selection</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Diet Evolution and Modern Health</td>
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Readings

January 11   Introduction to Ecological Anthropology

January 18   Ecological Anthropology / Scale & Evolutionary Forces

**Background readings provided (optional): Steward (1955, Ch.2); Harris et al. (1996).

January 25   Community Ecology / Humans & Biotic Diversity


February 1   Foraging Theory: Models and Tools


**February 8**  **Behavioral Ecology: Applications to Humans**


**February 15**  **Niche & Niche Construction / Swarm Intelligence**

**Background readings provided (optional): Chave (2004); Harte (2003); Hu et al. (2006); Pianka (1994, Ch 13 *The Ecological Niche)*.

**February 22**  **Selection and Neutrality**

*Watch*: Geoff West, Scaling Laws (Google Tech Talk):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEB4p9qblJc
**Background readings provided (optional): Gravel et al. (2006); and, on self-organized criticality [http://people.scs.carleton.ca/~arpwhite/courses/5002/notes/SI%20Lecture%2010.pdf](http://people.scs.carleton.ca/~arpwhite/courses/5002/notes/SI%20Lecture%2010.pdf)

**March 1**  **Evolutionary Ecology of Primate Reproduction**


**Background readings provided (optional): Bateson et al. (2004); Pike and Williams (2006).**

**March 8**  
**Complexity and Emergence**


**Background readings provided (optional): Albert and Bárbasi (2002); Dunne et al. (2002); Levin (2003); Folke (2006).**

**March 22**  
**Urban Ecology**


**March 29**  
**Conservation and Community Partnerships**