Course Description

This course focuses on the ways in which the health of human populations and communities are affected by environmental conditions; and in turn, how human populations affect the health of their environment.

We will investigate and apply a number of anthropological approaches to environmental health including medical ecology, biocultural anthropology, political-ecology, development, and globalization. The course engages with questions of how history, political-economy, ecology, and health inequalities, biology and culture affect environmental health. How does the past connect to the present and the future? What components will help to make human habitation on the planet more sustainable and perhaps improve environmental health for future populations?

To apply these concepts and approaches, our ethnographic site of investigation focuses on how health and the environment plays out in Mexico City, Mexico, including the health and environmental concerns linking rural and urban populations.

Assessment:

Mid-Term Exam: 100 Multiple Choice exam questions in-class administered in 3 parts 55%
Final Exam: 100 Multiple Choice exam questions during Registrar administered exams 45%

Text: See class schedule
Reading List
Feature documentaries viewed prior to lecture
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, [http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own for which other credit has been obtained. *(Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide)*
2. Improper collaboration in group work. *(Insert specific course information)*
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations. *(If applicable)* In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:
[http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html](http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html)

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link* (Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)
MSAF

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
  - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
  - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight.
  - The ‘one MSAF per term’ limit is retained.
  - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.

- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work
  * Please note: the Mid-Term Exam does not qualify for a MSAF

AODA
If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Eszter Bell at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email bellesz@mcmaster.ca

Class Schedule:
Each topic will be divided into 3 lectures that will be covered during 3 classes per week
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
10:30-11:20 am
KTH B124

Avenue To Learn
All lecture slides and materials will be posted to Avenue to Learn after each class.
You are encouraged to take notes during lectures and to study the slides after each class and to prepare for exams.

Students requiring accommodations, and those requiring note takers must ensure they obtain their documentation from SAS, and to discuss note taking requirements with the McMaster Note taking services.

If you have official accommodations, please present your documents in the first week of class to your instructor.

Students wishing to participate in the note taker services please contact http://sas.mcmaster.ca/being-notetaker-faq/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings + documentaries</th>
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<tr>
<td>1: Sept 6-9</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>course materials, objectives and terms of reference</td>
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| 2: Sept 12-16 | Anthropological perspectives | Biocultural Models in Studies of Human Health and Adaptation  
Ann McElroy                                      |
| 3: Sept 19-23 | Environmental Impacts           | https://youtu.be/8zGFvzMMO9w                                                          |
| 4: Sept 26-30 | The lived experience:people in the landscape | Syndemics and Public Health: Reconceptualizing Disease in Bio-Social Context  
Merrill Singer and Scott Clair                     |
| 5: Oct 3-7 | Globalization                  | https://youtu.be/ONUxYewyDdo                                                           |
| 6: Oct 10-14 | Mid Term Break                 |                                                                                         |
| 7: Oct 17-21 | Early warning: the intersection of ethnographic study and science | Patterns of Morbidity and Mortality in Mexico City  
David J. Fox                                        |
| 8: Oct 24-28 |                                | Mid-term Exam                                                                            |
| 9: Oct 31-Nov4 | Transportation               | Middle-Class Residential Mobility in Mexico City: Toward a Cross-Cultural Theory  
David W. Coombs                                     |
| 11: Nov 14-18 | Manufacturing                | https://youtu.be/WUQgFzkE3i0                                                            |
| 12: Nov 21-25 | Water                        | The Impact of the Maquiladoras on Health and Health Policy along the U.S.-Mexico Border  
Darryl M. Williams and Nuria Homedes                  |
| 14: Dec 5-7 | Course Conclusions           | Closing arguments and findings. Final Exam Review                                         |
Biocultural Models in Studies of Human Health and Adaptation
Ann McElroy
Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/649097

Developing a Critical Perspective in Medical Anthropology
Merrill Singer
Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/649010

Toward a Political Ecology of Health in Medical Anthropology
Hans A. Baer
Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/648654

Should Medical Ecology Be Political?
Ann McElroy
Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/648659

Syndemics and Public Health: Reconceptualizing Disease in Bio-Social Context
Merrill Singer and Scott Clair
Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3655345
Factories and Pollution

**The Impact of the Maquiladoras on Health and Health Policy along the U.S.-Mexico Border**
Darryl M. Williams and Nuria Homedes
Published by: Palgrave Macmillan Journals
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3343145

**Masculine Bonds and Modern Mothers: The Rationalization of Gender in the Textile Industry in Puebla, 1940-1952**
Susan M. Gauss
*International Labor and Working-Class History*, No. 63, Labor History after the Gender Turn (Spring, 2003), pp. 63-80
Published by: Cambridge University Press on behalf of International Labor and Working-Class, Inc.
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/27672845

Toxic Cities

**Patterns of Morbidity and Mortality in Mexico City**
David J. Fox
Published by: American Geographical Society
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/213211

**Environmental Urban Lead Exposure and Blood Lead Levels in Children of Mexico City**
Isabelle Romieu, Tania Carreon, Lizabeth Lopez, Eduardo Palazuelos, Camilo Rios, Yves Manuel and Mauricio Hernandez-Avila
Published by: Brogan & Partners
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3432632

**Sources of Lead Exposure in Mexico City**
Isabelle Romieu, Eduardo Palazuelos, Mauricio Hernandez Avila, Camilo Rios, Ilda Muñoz, Carlos Jimenez and Gisela Cahero
Published by: Brogan & Partners
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3431627

**Middle-Class Residential Mobility in Mexico City: Toward a Cross-Cultural Theory**
David W. Coombs
Published by: Springer
Article Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/4602600