

Syllabus

Kursbeschreibung

Titel der Lehrveranstaltung	Environmental Anthropology
Code der Lehrveranstaltung	47209
Zusätzlicher Titel der Lehrveranstaltung	
Wissenschaftlich-disziplinärer Bereich	SDEA-01/A
Sprache	Englisch
Studiengang	Master in Kritische Kreative Praxis
Andere Studiengänge (gem. Lehrveranstaltung)	
Dozenten/Dozentinnen	Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tauber, Elisabeth.Tauber@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/10555
Wissensch. Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin	
Semester	Zweites Semester
Studienjahr/e	1
KP	6
Vorlesungsstunden	30
Laboratoriumsstunden	0
Stunden für individuelles Studium	120
Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten	18
Inhaltsangabe	Based on their interests and focus, students select courses in areas Make & Intervene and Observe, Analyse & Apply, to which the course in Environmental Anthropology belongs. The course's aim is to integrate perspectives of ecological and environmental anthropology into perception and analysis of ecosocial themes, particularly in the local alpine context. Additionally,

	the course will prepare students for the application of ethnographic methods and engagement with scientific texts. The critical reflection on concepts such as human – non-human relationships, ecological and social ‘transformation’ and dominant modes of production and living, and the exploitation of humans and nature, Contents Summary exclusion and growth compulsion going along with it, through a global comparative lens will lead to new understandings on how to combine anthropological discourses on the Anthropocene with innovative design approaches. The course leads through ethnographic examples of culturally diverse understandings of social-ecological worldviews.
Themen der Lehrveranstaltung	Environmental anthropology has traditionally employed a longue durée perspective on human-environment interactions, spanning from Boas's cultural diffusion theory to Steward's cultural ecology. We will draw upon this foundational discourse to contextualize contemporary debates within the European Alps, examining Cole and Wolf's Hidden Frontier as a key case study. However, this class will also expand this perspective by incorporating indigenous, people of color, and female voices to critically examine the environmental and social violence inherent in colonialism, power structures, expertise hierarchies, and the relational processes that shape environmental claims. Moving beyond restrictive nature/culture binaries, we will engage with critical intersectionality frameworks to develop a political stance for reconceptualizing environments. Above all, our approach prioritizes exploration of questions over definitive answers by engaging with works that extend beyond the traditional "canon"—particularly contributions from women, people of color, indigenous authors, and other scholars whose work speaks to or bridges difference across multiple dimensions of environmental experience. Students will develop critical analytical skills for examining environmental and social issues through anthropological lenses, preparing them to engage with urgent ecological questions of our time while understanding the cultural dimensions of environmental problems and solutions. Learning Objectives: Understand key theories and methods in environmental anthropology

	Analyze human-environment relationships across different cultural contexts Critically examine environmental challenges from anthropological perspectives Develop ethnographic skills for studying environmental issues Apply anthropological frameworks to contemporary ecological problems.
Stichwörter	Environment, culture, colonialism, capitalism, violence, European Alps, history, indigenous voices.
Empfohlene Voraussetzungen	none
Propädeutische Lehrveranstaltungen	none
Unterrichtsform	Frontal lecture, group work, presentations in class, discussion and exercise circles.
Anwesenheitspflicht	Highly recommended.
Spezifische Bildungsziele und erwartete Lernergebnisse	Knowledge and understanding Knows ecocritical theories and their applications in visual arts and design have specific knowledge of artistic and design techniques that promote environmental sustainability; Understand the processes of interaction between artistic practices and natural contexts, analysing them while considering the connections with other fields of knowledge, such as philosophy, sociology and environmental sciences. Applying knowledge and understanding Conceive and implement artistic and design projects that respond to contemporary environmental challenges, using sustainable materials and ecological techniques; Develop initiatives that involve local and global communities, promoting greater awareness and action towards environmental sustainability; Collaborate with scientists, activists and other professionals to integrate interdisciplinary knowledge into artistic and design projects;

	Making judgements Collect and interpret cultural and material data from the fields of art, design, technology and spatial and curatorial practices, demonstrating the ability to place events, works and production operations in the historical context and current trends. Grasp the authority and evaluate the reliability of the various available sources. reflect and express an independent judgement, including on social, ethical and political-cultural issues. Interpret specific facts and events, within subject of their field of study. Communication skills Writing scientific and technical articles and reports with clarity and effectiveness; Presenting projects and ideas verbally in a professional and convincing manner. Learning skills The strengthening of the critical and operational autonomy of students. The development of their ability to choose, compare and adapt to new knowledge and technologies.
Spezifisches Bildungsziel und erwartete Lernergebnisse (zusätzliche Informationen)	
Art der Prüfung	- 4 reading minutes and preparations for discussion (is considered part of the oral exam) - 1 presentation in class 30% - 1 final paper 30% - oral exam 40% non-attending students - 4 reading minutes and preparations for discussion (is considered part of the oral exam)

	- 1 critical film review 30% - 1 final paper 30% - oral exam 40% N.B. – ALL STUDENTS TAKING THE EXAM AS NON-ATTENDING STUDENTS MUST AGREE UPON THE CONTENT WITH THE LECTURER.
Bewertungskriterien	Criteria for the evaluation of the reading minutes, presentation in class, final paper and oral exam will consider the ability to accurately apply course concepts and methods, the attempt to express original opinions and analyses, and the logical structure of exposition and argumentation.
Pflichtliteratur	Bird Rose, Deborah 2004 Reports from a Wild Country. Ethics for Decolonisation. University of New South Wales Press. Cole, John and Eric R. Wolf 1974 The Hidden Frontier: Ecology and Ethnicity in an Alpine Valley, New York: Academic Press. Mathews, Andrew 2020 Anthropology and the Anthropocene: Criticisms, Experiments, and Collaborations in Annual Review of Anthropology, Vol. 49: 67-82. Schneider, Almut 2022 Land's Constraints and Possibilities–High-Altitude Farmers in the Eastern Alps. C&AFPE Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment. The Journal of Culture and Agriculture https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cuag.12287 Swanson, Heather Anne; Marianne Elisabeth Lien and Gro B. Required Readings Ween 2018 Domestication Gone Wild Politics and Practices of Multispecies Relations. Duke University Press Tauber, Elisabeth 2024 Walking on Alpine Grass - Grass Socialities and their Global Connections. Perspectives From The Alpine Anthropocene. Ethnos, DOI: 10.1080/00141844.2024.2362697

	Todd, Zoe 2016 'An Indigenous Feminist's Take on the Ontological Turn: 'Ontology' is just another word for colonialism'. Journal of Historical Sociology 29(1): 4-22. Yancey Orr, J Stephen Lansing, and Michael R.Dove 2015 Environmental Anthropology: Systemic Perspectives in Annual Review of Anthropology, Vol. 44. 153-68.
Weiterführende Literatur	Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, Julia E. Fa, Dan Brockington, Eduardo S. Brondízio, Joji Cariño, Esteve Corbera, Maurizio Farhan Ferrari, Daniel Kobei, Pernilla Malmer, Guadalupe Yesenia H. Márquez, Zsolt Molnár, Helen Tugendhat & Stephen T. Garnett 2024 A baseless statistic could harm the Indigenous Peoples it is meant to support. Nature nr. 633: 32-35. Kimmerer, Robin Wall 2014 The "Honorable Harvest": Lessons From an Indigenous Tradition of Giving Thanks. ALLcreations.org The Kino-nda-niimi Collective 2014 The Winter We Danced. Voices from the Past, the Future, and the Idle No More Movement. ARP Books. Winnipeg. Tsing, Anna, Jennifer Deger, Alder Keleman Saxena and Feifei Zhou 2021 Feral Atlas. The-More-Than-Human Anthropocene. Stanford University Press https://www.feralatlas.org/ Viveiros de Castro, E. (1998). Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism. The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 469-488 More reading will be announced in class
Weitere Informationen	
Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung (SDGs)	Keine Armut, Kein Hunger, Gesundheit und Wohlergehen, Sauberes Wasser und Sanitär-Einrichtungen, Bezahlbare und saubere Energie, Menschenwürdige Arbeit und

	Wirtschaftswachstum, Partnerschaften zur Erreichung der Ziele, Nachhaltige Städte und Gemeinden, Nachhaltiger Konsum und Produktion, Maßnahmen zum Klimaschutz, Leben unter Wasser, Leben an Land, Frieden, Gerechtigkeit und starke Institutionen, Weniger Ungleichheiten
--	--