UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

ANTH*3840 - WINTER 2019
Nature and Culture: Contemporary Issues in Anthropology

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Time: TBA
Room: TBA

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Course Description
What are the common assumptions about the duality of nature and culture? What are the dominant paradigms through which the place of humans in the world is considered? What can anthropology, with its concepts and methods, help us understand about the implications of received ideas on the boundary of nature and culture? In this course, we will explore these questions by examining ethnographic studies, sociocultural accounts, theoretical reflections and ethnographic films. The theme addressed will include the production of environmental knowledge, humans’ ethical relationship with nature and with non-human beings, humans’ entanglement with various species, and the practices by which the state seeks to tame nature for territorial purposes. The topics through which these themes will be explored include conservation politics, pollution and toxicology, disasters, human-animal relationships, multispecies relationships, climate change, and the Anthropocene. The course will also consider the promises and limitations of the agenda that has been recently developing in anthropology, and which calls for an anthropology beyond humans.

Objectives
- Analyze, evaluate and apply anthropological theories to address contemporary, historical, social and global issues;
- Engage in classical and contemporary scholarly inquiry to identify and address sociological and anthropological questions and issues for academic purposes;
- Critically reflect on culture, social relations and social structures in order to develop a broader and deeper understanding of social problems;
- Interpret, use and mobilize historical and contemporary disciplinary knowledge for a variety of audiences; Communicate effectively, accurately and professionally, in traditional and innovative written and oral forms;
- Develop and practise intellectual curiosity, analytic, problem-solving, decision-making and listening skills;
- Demonstrate personal, professional, and academic integrity and ethical reasoning.

Format
This is a seminar course and students are expected to participate actively to classroom discussions. This means that students are expected to do the weekly readings and come to class prepared with reflections and questions.

Readings
- One monograph (for the book review and the discussant role in class)
- All the other readings will be available on Courselink

**Evaluation (Tentative – this may change)**
1. Participation (15%)
2. Book Review/Analytic Paper (20%) + Presentation & Discussant Role (15%)
3. Blog Entry (15%)
4. Final Research Paper (35%)