Anthropology 434 Native South Americans
MW 2:00-3:50
Prof. Sugiyama
Phone: 346-5142
e-mail: sugiyama@darkwing.uoregon.edu
Office Hours: Weds. 4:00-5:00 and by appt.

Introduction: This course is designed as an upper division/graduate course on Native Peoples of South America. This term it will focus on Native Amazonian People, their interaction/adaptation to local environments, and some basic issues in Anthropology for which research in Amazonia has had a major impact. While factors causing destruction of the rainforest and disruption of Indigenous Amazonians' lifeways are a major concern of conservationists and human rights activists--issues we have focused on in this course in the past--this term we will focus on the "traditional" ways of life that are affected by these changes. We will use a behavioral ecological approach to understand how people make a living, mate and raise their children, cooperate, provide for their healthcare needs, and organize themselves to settle disputes and conflicts. Readings for the class will be research articles and book chapters. The design of the class is interactive, with student presentations and lecture forming the majority of in-class activities.

Grades:
Undergraduate Students: Your grade is based on a midterm (35%), final exam (35%), and in class article summaries/presentations and participation (30%). Depending on our number of students, each group will be responsible for 2-4 summaries.

Graduate Students are not responsible for taking the exams, but are responsible for participation, article summaries or background information presentations, and a term paper on a topic relevant to the course approved by me. The term paper is worth 50% of your grade and the article summaries and participation 50%.

Article summaries/presentations:
Undergraduate students will be divided into groups. Each class session, selected groups will prepare written summaries of assigned articles and chapters for their classmates and then lead the discussion on the assigned reading. Summaries should provide an overview of the article outlining the fundamental issues and conclusions raised by the author(s).

Article summary/presentation should, in your own words, explain all basic aspects of the research article including:
1. Theory (what question is being addressed and why?)
2. Hypotheses (what specific hypotheses are tested if any)
3. Background (on previous research and the research population)
4. Methods (how was data gathered and hypothesis tested)
5. Results (what were the specific research findings)
6. Discussion/conclusions (what did the authors conclude about their results in relation to a)hypotheses tested, and b) theory addressed)
7. New questions or issues stimulated by this research and/or valid scientific criticisms and comments on the article.
8. At least two questions (essay type) about the article that may appear on the midterm or final (based on my discretion).
Grading of Article summaries:
1. Students not presenting will grade the presenting group based on how useful clear and accurate the article summary/presentation was, based on the usual F-A scale. This will account for 5% of each group members' total grade.
2. Each group member will grade each of their other group members. This will account for 5% of each group members' total grade.
3. I will assign the additional 20% of the grade allocated for presentations.

Readings: All students must complete all the reading.
Available Online (OL) via links on blackboard.
Course Packet: available as a course packet in the UO bookstore, henceforth (CP)
Additional assignments where appropriate to be announced

Note: the following course schedule lays out the general timetable for the course. We will adjust the timetable to accommodate discussion etc. as the course progresses. You are responsible for keeping abreast of any changes that occur.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Section 1: Introductions, theory, and orientation

Week 1: (Jan 3-7). Introduction to the Course, Assign Readings, Theoretical Background
Sugiyama, LS. 1996. Introduction. In In Search of the Adapted Mind: A Study of Human Cognitive Adaptations Among the Shiwiar of Ecuador and the Yora of Peru. OL

Sugiyama, LS. 2004. Physical Attractiveness in Adaptationist Perspective (Intro) OL


Week 2: (Jan 10-14). The Physical Environment and a Prehistoric Perspective on Current Amazonian Societies
Roosevelt, (AI chpt 1) OL
Whitehead (AI chpt 2) OL

Section 2: Subsistence strategies:

Week 3: (Jan 17-21). Gathering.


Hill and Kaplan 1989. Population and Dry season subsistence strategies of the recently contacted Yora of Peru. CP
Week 4: (Jan. 24-28). Agriculture


Week 5: (Jan 31-Feb. 4). Hunting Strategies


Week 6: (Feb. 7-11). Fishing Strategies. MIDTERM EXAM

Beckerman (AI Chpt. 8)

Week 7: (Feb. 14-18). Food Transfers


Section 3: Life History and Reproductive Strategies
Week 8: (Feb. 21-25). Mortality and Reproduction
Hill, K. & Hurtado, M. 1996. Ache Life History Chpt. 8. Female Fertility. (or alt)

Week 9: (Feb. 28-March 4):
Sugiyama L. 2005. Yora Parental Investment. OL

Week 10: (March 7-11). Warfare: Protein, Jealousy, Revenge, Status or Gifts?

Final Exam: Mon, March 14 3:15pm