

Graduate Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP)

Total 15 credits (5 classes)

Human societies, past, present, and future, are the major drivers of global environmental change. The planet has long been dominated by human actions. Thus we must rely on human agency to create sustainable solutions for the near and long term. Scholarship has come to recognize that ecological and social systems are coupled and that human interactions dominate causing change in unpredictable and non-linear ways. This means that tools and methods developed within a framework of stability are ill-suited to address present and future concerns. It is no surprise then that “the survival of social-ecological systems has ... become increasingly dependent on *the resilience of their social dynamics in contrast to their purely biophysical dynamics*”(Young et al. 2006:306).

Rapid changes due to climatic, economic, social and cultural processes affect many people and places where local policies and action have little influence, creating disconnect in global-local feedbacks and interactions. These causes of change have major impacts in both the biophysical and human dimensions. Resilience is defined as the capacity of a social-ecological system to absorb disturbance and to reorganize, while undergoing change so as to retain essentially the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks. In this context adaptation is the ability of individuals or groups to respond to changes in their environment. We address these numerous aspects of social and ecological systems. This ISP specifically addresses the transdisciplinary challenges of social-ecological issues and is a collaborative effort between various departments.

A graduate ISP in Resilience of Social Ecological Systems will allow students from the Anthropology Department and across campus the opportunity to develop their environmental literacy and understanding of the framework of resilience for solving linked social – ecological problems. Graduate student demand for a new way of thinking and a holistic approach to solving critical human-environmental problems and attaining ‘green’ jobs has resulted in the ISP. This ISP can help students reinforce their departmental coursework and attain employment opportunities not only in academia but in such fields as non-profits, non-governmental organizations, consulting, communications, and local, state or federal government, for example.

Required course: ANTH 530 Human Environment Interactions

Students will be able to think in a holistic way about the dynamics of coupled social-ecological systems (3 credits)

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Students must take one course from each of the following four categories.

At least 9 credits must be at the 500 level or above. Students must take two courses out of their discipline or sub-discipline.

A. Society: Students will understand the concepts of cultural and social systems in environmental context (minimum 3 credits)

ANTH 330 Human Ecology (will be called Ecological Anthropology)

ANTH 329 Cultural Change

ANTH 529 Anthropology and Sustainable Development

GR 320 Cultural Geography

ANTH 376 Evolution of Human Adaptation

ANTH 415 Indigenous Ecologies and the Modern World

HIST 470 World Environmental History, 1500- Present

SOC668 Environmental Sociology (Michael Carolan)

SOC 667 Theories of State, Economy and Society (Pete Taylor)

ANTH 446 New Orleans and the Caribbean

POLS 670 Politics of Environment and Sustainability

PHIL 330/AGRI 330 Agricultural Ethics

B. Environment: Students will be able to understand concepts and methods of ecology and people (minimum 3 credits)

ANTH 453 Impacts on Ancient Environments

ANTH 515 Culture and Environment

ANTH 573 Paleoclimate and Human Evolution and Paleoclimate

ANTH 572 Human Origins

NR 353/BZ353 Global Change Ecology, Impacts and Mitigation.

ECOL 610 Ecosystem Ecology

RS 351 Wildland Ecosystems in a Changing World

AGRI 500 Advanced Issues in Agriculture

AGRI 562/SOC 562 Sociology of Food Systems and Agriculture

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C. Governance/Economics: Students will be able to understand the governance and economic concepts and methods of social-ecological systems (minimum 3 credits)

ANTH 529 Anthropology and Sustainable Development

ECON 340/AREC 340 Natural Resource Economics

ECON 540/AREC540 Economics of Natural Resources.

ECON 541/AREC541 Environmental Economics

NR 320 Natural Resource History and Policy

NR 622 Analysis of Environmental Impacts

POLS 362 Global Environmental Politics

POLS 532 Governance of the World Political Economy

POLS 739 International Environmental Politics

NR625 Community-based Natural Resource Management

AREC 460 Economics of World Agriculture

AREC 478 Agricultural Policy

D. Methods: Students will be able to have the technical skills to formulate and solve problems at the appropriate scales and to recognize the interconnectedness of coupled social and environmental systems (minimum 3 credits)

ANTH 352 Geoarchaeology

ANTH 441 Methods in Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 461 Anthropological Report Preparation

ANTH 443 Ethnographic Field Preparation

ANTH 544 Anthropological Method and Theory

GR 323/NR323 Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation

GR 420 Spatial Analysis with GIS

GR 410 Climate Change: Science, Policy, Implications

GR503/NR503 Remote Sensing and Image Analysis

NR575 Systems Ecology: An Introduction to Methods of Ecological Modeling