Course Description: Throughout their existence, humans have both transformed and been shaped by their natural environments. In this class, we will examine prehistoric and historic case studies of human-environment interaction, and use the long-term perspectives of archaeology to critically analyze key concepts and theoretical approaches. During the term, we will look at how scientists reconstruct the environmental settings of past societies, address how humans respond to climate change, and explore the extent to which environmental degradation contributed to the collapse of civilizations. Our case studies will be drawn from diverse ecosystems and will cover human societies ranging from hunter-gatherers to subsistence farmers to states and empires.

Readings: All course readings are available as PDF files on Blackboard

Grading
There will be ten, written, take-home assignments in this class, each worth 20 points (10% of your grade). The assignments will vary from week to week: some weeks they will consist of a single essay, while in other weeks they may be a series of short answer questions or problems. In general, each will be ca. 1000 words, although the precise length needed to effectively complete the assignment will depend on the questions and on your approach. Assignments will be available on Wednesdays and due in class the following Monday. Assignments must be turned in on paper; electronic submissions will not be accepted without pre-approval. Assignments may be typed or hand-written and should be edited for grammar and spelling.

Attendance and participation will also be recorded and count for 20 points (10% of your grade). Attendance requires that you arrive on time and stay through the entire class period. Participation requires engagement with the class material. You may miss one class with no penalty. Each additional absence will result in a one point deduction from your attendance/participation grade. (Failure to participate will be graded the same as an absence).

Of these 11 grades (ten assignments plus attendance/participation), I will drop your lowest score. You do NOT need to turn in an assignment/attend class to be able to drop a grade.

Late Assignment Policy: Assignments may be turned in one class late (by Wednesday at the end of class) for a 10% penalty. They may be turned in by Monday, December 3 at 5pm for a 30% penalty. No assignments will be accepted after that date.
Grading
I do not anticipate a curve for this class. Grades are rounded to the nearest tenth, and the grading scale to be used is as follows:

- **A+ = 97.5-100%**
- **A = 92.5-97.4%**
- **A- = 90-92.4%**
- **B+ = 87.5-89.9%**
- **B = 82.5-87.4%**
- **B- = 80-82.4%**
- **C+ = 77.5-79.9%**
- **C = 72.5-77.4%**
- **C- = 70-72.4%**
- **D+ = 67.5-69.9%**
- **D = 62.5-67.4%**
- **D- = 60-62.4%**
- **F = 59.9% or below**

If the class is taken P/NP, a C- or higher is required to pass the course.

Accommodations
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify myself and your GTF if there are aspects of this course structure that result in disability related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Office of Accessible Education in 164 Oregon Hall (346-1155, uoaec@uoregon.edu). Their advisers can help you acquire a letter verifying your disability.

Academic Integrity
I take academic integrity very seriously: please review the University’s Academic Honesty Policy posted on the blackboard website.

Class Etiquette and Computer Use
It is essential that we all work together to create a favorable learning environment. Disruptions during class (including texting, movement in and out of the room, playing games on handheld devices, etc.) affect the learning experience of everyone in the room. Please be prepared to turn your cell phone and other electronic gadgets off and sit through the entire class. Laptop computers may be used during this class. **If you are caught with non-class related windows open on your screen, you will lose your laptop privileges for the remainder of the term.**
CLASS SCHEDULE

September 24: Introduction

September 26: Conceptualizing Human-Environment Relations

October 1: Ecology
   Assignment #1 Due

October 3: Cultural Ecology/Ethnobiology
   Berkes 2012, Intellectual Roots of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, *Sacred Ecology* pp. 53-75
   Balee and Ericson, 2006, Time, complexity, and historical ecology, *Time and Complexity in Historical Ecology* pp. 1-17

October 8: Archaeology and Adaptation
   Assignment #2 Due

October 10: Cultural Landscapes

October 15: Management
   Assignment #3 Due

October 17: Zooarchaeology

October 22: Domestication and Agriculture
   Zeder 2008, Pathways to Animal Domestication, in *Biodiversity in Agriculture*, pp. 227-259
   Assignment #4 Due

October 24: Environmental Determinism I: Settings
   Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Chapters 9 and 10
October 29: Paleoclimate and Paleo-environmental Reconstruction
Burroughs, 2005, The climate of the past 100,000 years, Climate Change in Prehistory, pp. 17-73
Assignment #5 Due

October 31: Environmental Determinism II: Effects of Climate Change

November 5: Paleoethnobotany
Adams and Smith 2011, Reconstructing past lifeways with plants I: Subsistence and other daily needs, Ethnobiology, pp. 149-172.
Assignment #6 Due

November 7: Human Impact I: Farming, Soil, and Degradation
Furley, Peter 2006, Fragility and resilience of Amazonian soils: models from indigenous management in Human Impacts on Amazonia, pp. 122-45

November 12: Human Impact II: Island Ecosystems
Assignment #7 Due

November 14: Archaeology of Maritime and Coastal Environments
Guest Lecture: Prof. Scott Fitzpatrick

November 19: Response to Natural Disasters
Assignment #8 Due

November 21- NO CLASS Thanksgiving

November 26: Archaeological Data and Modern Conservation
Campbell and Butler 2010, Archaeological Evidence for Resilience of Pacific Northwest Salmon Populations and the Socioecological System over the last ~7,500 years, Ecology and Society
Assignment #9 Due

November 28: Wrap-Up

Finals Week:
Assignment #10 Due by 5pm, Monday, December 3 to Dr. Gallagher’s Office (253 Condon)