

FYS026 Ethnobiology: Nature and culture

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Nanci J. Ross, 117 Olin Hall, ph. 271-2036, nanci.ross@drake.edu

**the best way to contact me is by email

Office hours: T 5-6pm, W 1:30-4:30pm, and R 5-6pm or by appointment

Meeting time and place: Olin Hall 234, T/R 12:30-1:45pm

Required Materials:

No textbook is required. All readings will be posted on the course BlackBoard page. You are responsible for downloading, reading, and coming to class prepared to discuss them.

Course content and rationale:

Ever tried to suck the sugary nectar out of the base of a clover flower or watched a bird build a nest? People often fail to realize that it is these experiences and observations that are the beginning of the study of natural science. We are integrally related to our ecosystem. People have been practicing science since the beginning when we classified plants as separate from animals. The way we perceive nature is, in many ways, inherited from our culture that leads to fascinating, weird, and intriguing insights. In this class we will explore the connection between science, nature, and human cultures over time and around the world through exploration of nature around us, readings, discussion, and scientific experimentation. Nature has changed us as much as we have changed nature and we will investigate examples of both throughout the semester.

Course objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Improve their writing and critical analysis skills
2. Recognize the practice of science in everyday life
3. know the steps in the scientific method and be able to apply them
4. become familiar with the defining characteristics of both scientific and folk taxonomic systems
5. conduct a scientific experiment from hypothesis development to presentation of results
6. explore the significance of cultural perceptions of nature to conservation and biodiversity
7. make friends, have fun, and experience new and interesting ideas!

A few policies to make everyone's life a bit easier...

1. Late assignment will result in **one letter grade penalty per day late**.
2. **NO cell phones** on the desk or used in any way during class.
3. In class discussion is an important part of this class; however, courtesy and patience are expected at all times.
- 4.

Grading and Attendance:

You will need to regularly attend class and participate in class discussions to succeed in this course. After four (4) absences you lose 50 points for missed discussions. Six (6) total absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Mitigating circumstances may be considered at the professor's discretion. Grading will follow a standard +/- scale (94%-100%= A, 90-93% A-, 88-89.9% B+, 84-87% B, 80-83% B-,... below 60% = F).

Writing assignments

35 pts = Paper 1 (draft)
50 pts = Paper 1 (final)
50 pts = Paper 2 (draft)
100 pts = Paper 2 (final)
35 pts = Paper 3 (draft)
100 pts = Paper 3 (final)

Other assignments

15 pts = Plant descriptions
25 pts = Scavenger hunt
20 pts = P2 background paper summaries
50 pts = Course notebooks

Total course points: 480

Papers:

The first objective of this course is to improve your writing and critical thinking skills, so you will be writing a series of short papers throughout the semester. We will utilize both peer review and discussion to help you to improve your skills. You are also welcome (and encouraged!) to come visit Dr, Ross during office hours or talk via email to go over your writing and discuss what you can do to improve. Writing assignment topics and format are described in detail in a separate handout.

Folk Taxonomy (P2) background paper summaries:

Paper 2 is a formal scientific paper. Nearly all advances and understandings in science arise out of existing knowledge from previous scientists. These ideas and discoveries are found in the scientific literature. Therefore, when reporting the results and significance of your data, you begin a scientific paper by outlining how your paper connects to previous work and what new questions you are addressing in the project you will describe in your paper. Each of you will prepare a list of at least three (3) and no more than 5 ideas/concepts/questions that you derived from EACH of the background papers I have assigned as well as the extra paper your group selected. You will then state how you think these ideas relate to your project. This will form the basis of your P2 Introduction.

Course notebook (50 pts.):

In science, one of the most challenging (and fun!) skills to learn is how to synthesize diverse concepts and facts to develop new ideas and understandings. A helpful means of keeping things organized is to write your notes, observations, ideas, and reflections together in a notebook. Each of you will keep a notebook that you will record notes, data, ideas, etc. in for each class period. We will do different things on different days, but every day should have the following clearly marked: *i) date; ii) topic of the day; iii) sketches, notes, and/or data for that day's class; iv) end of class summary... what was the take home message?* You will be graded on organization, clarity, completeness, and attention to detail. Note: for sketches...you do not need to be a great artist, but you do need to be neat and precise!

Academic misconduct:

The Drake statement on academic honesty is found in the Drake student handbook (<https://www.drake.edu/studentlife/handbook-resources/handbook/academic/>). The College of Arts and Sciences also has a statement outlining our position on academic dishonesty on the College webpage (<https://www.drake.edu/catalog/undergrad/14-15/collegeofartsandsciences/academicregulations/>). Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty and the consequences. Cheating and/or plagiarism in any form can result in a zero for a class, an assignment, or an F for the course at the instructor's discretion.

All cases of plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment and, once it is handed in, there are no second chances!

***this schedule is subject to change!!*

Due dates:

Date	topic	Paper	Reading due	Assignment due
28-Aug	Ethnobiology			
30-Aug	Exploring diversity			
4-Sept	Organizing our world: start with observing FIELD TRIP: dress for being outside!!			
6-Sept	Scientific taxonomy			Plant descriptions
11-Sept	Taxonomy in practice: plant families			
13-Sept	Are we part of nature or not? (Survey)			
18-Sept	Reading scientific literature	P1	Vining et al. (2008)	
20-Sept	Survey data analysis			
25-Sept	Library services			
27-Sept	How to analyze & discuss data			P1 draft (in class!!!)
2-Oct	Our cultural cosmology: A new perspective		Pollan (2001): chap 4	
4-Oct	Scavenger hunt!			P1 final
9-Oct	Naming nature: Folk taxonomy	P2		
11-Oct	Folk taxonomy project			
16-Oct	FALL BREAK			
18-Oct	Folk taxonomy project		Berlin, Breedlove, and Raven (1973)	
23-Oct	Folk taxonomy data collation			P2: paper summaries
25-Oct	Folk taxonomy project			
30-Oct	P2 peer reviews			P2: draft pt.1
1-Nov	P2 in-class work time: data visualization!			
6-Nov	ethnopharmacology			P2: draft pt.2
8-Nov	TEK: What is the value of knowing nature?			
13-Nov	Local TEK: do you use herbal medicine?			P2: final
15-Nov	Culture, people, and conservation	P3	Sohdi et al. (2011)	
20-Nov	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!			
22-Nov	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!			
27-Nov	Humans and landscapes			
29-Nov	Biogeography			
4-Dec	Final papers: editing, discussion			P3: draft (in class!!!!)
6-Dec	flex day (possible field trip)			Notebooks due
14-Dec	FINAL TIME: 2 – 3:50 pm			P3: final paper

Additional campus support resources:

If a student has a disability and requires special accommodations or additional assistance that student must contact the Student Disability Services Coordinator, Michelle Laughlin at 271-1835 or Michelle.Laughlin@drake.edu. The website for the Center for Disability Services (CDS) is <http://www.drake.edu/disabilityservices>. If a student does not contact Michelle Laughlin **within the first week of classes** to discuss necessary accommodations, they cannot expect such accommodations to be made. Talk to me if something comes up after the first week and I will see what I can do!

Student Services:

The Coordinator for Sexual Violence Response and Healthy Relationship Promotion's primary role is to act as a resource for students who have been subjected to interpersonal [gender] violence including sexual assault/harassment, dating/domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, and stalking and will advocate on behalf of the student victim's requests if services are voluntarily initiated. The coordinator can explain how to initiate a complaint within the university and through criminal/civil processes, assist with referrals to a confidential crisis advocate and/or counselor and appropriate medical or legal professionals. The coordinator must report "known" student campus assaults to the Dean of Students and/or Title IX Coordinator, but the complainant still has rights to participate or withdraw from the university process. Other services include providing crisis intervention (safety plan, crisis counseling, rights information), and assistance in academic and housing accommodations as needed. To contact the coordinator, Alysa Mozak, call 515-271-4141 or email alysa.mozak@drake.edu. The Violence Intervention Partner (V.I.P.) program through this office provides peer-based 24/7 confidential advocacy services. To access a V.I.P. advocate call or text 515-512-2972. For more information about these services visit <https://www.drake.edu/titleix/help/>.

Paper Assignments →

Papers: All papers are due on the dates listed. Final papers will be handed in electronically unless otherwise instructed. Submit the papers via the link on BlackBoard by **11:59pm on the day it is due**. Make sure that you do a grammar and spell check before sending. All drafts will be **printed and brought to class** on the listed due dates.

Paper	Topic	Due date	Requirements
P1	Are we part of nature?	Draft: 27-Sept *print & bring draft to class!! Final: 4 Oct	3-4 pages, 2.0 spacing
P2	Folk Taxonomy expt.	Drafts: 30-Oct (pt.1) & 6-Nov (pt.2) *print & bring to class Part1 = Intro & Methods Part2 = Results & Discussion Final: 13-Nov	7-10 pages, 2.0 spacing, figures embedded in text, must include a bibliography & in-text citations**
P3	People, culture, & conservation	Draft: 4-Dec. *print & bring to class Final: Due at time of assigned final exam	6-8 pages, 2.0 spacing, include bibliography & citations**

****IMPORTANT:** Explanation of literature citation formats for both in-text (single and multiple author examples) and in the reference section are found in the folder provided in BlackBoard entitled 'Rubrics & other useful stuff'. You **MUST** carefully follow these instructions. If there is any confusion, ask Dr. Ross ASAP. Use of URLs and/or incorrectly formatted citations will result in **up to 20% off your grade**.