

Minnesota State University Moorhead

ANTH 317: Collapse

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

This course explores the notion of societal collapse using ancient societies and archaeological data. A variety of case studies, drawn from diverse cultural and environmental settings, are examined to identify the processes and causes of collapse. Of critical importance is the interplay between society and environment in achieving or failing to attain long-term sustainability. Present day contexts are examined using perspectives gained from the study of the past. MnTC Goal 10.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/09/2008 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Develop a basic understanding of the concept of societal collapse.
2. Understand the social and environmental factors precipitating societal collapse
3. Explore why societies change from a sustainable path, which will involve explaining the concept of sustainability.
4. Recognize how societal perceptions and preconceived notions of the past and human relations with the environment obscure our ability to recognize and reverse collapse.
5. Appreciate the potential of the archaeological record for providing information relevant to an understanding of modern environmental and societal problems.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Explain the concept of sustainability.
2. Identify and evaluate possible pathways to a sustainable future and demonstrate an awareness of the tradeoffs necessary to achieve a sustainable future.
3. Describe the relationships between environments and socio-cultural groups, and identify how natural resource challenges are being addressed by the social, legal, economic, political, cultural, and religious systems within societies.
4. Understand how socio-cultural variables affect the ways in which environments are perceived and managed, and the ways in which people or societies react to environmental challenge

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
3. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted