Problems of Philosophy

Latin American Philosophy: A case study and workshop class based on the environmental ethics and conservation dimensions of the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve

Phil 5960 Sec. 1 Tue 18:00 – 20:50 hrs (ENV 125)

Office hours: T&Th 15:30-16:30 hrs, and by appointment (ENV 320E) (rozzi@unt.edu)
Professor Ricardo Rozzi, Ph.D.

This course is conceived as an “atelier” or workshop on the following topics:

I) Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve UNESCO proposal

II) Field Environmental Program – International Collaboration UNT - Omora

III) Diversification of ecotourism thematic in Cape Horn as a tool to achieve conservation at the southern extreme of the Americas

Approach of the course:

The approach of this course involves that we will be actors and not mere analyzers of the subject. This approach challenges dichotomies such as involvement and objectivity, theory and action, activists and academics. It also demands overcoming the duality between object of study and the observer. We will discuss the general Scenario of International Environmental Conventions, and the challenges about how to implement these international conventions, with particular reference to the Convention of Biological Diversity, and more specifically the Ecosystem Approach and the Man and Biosphere Program (UNESCO- biosphere reserves).

We will focus on the case study of the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve proposal. This is our study object, at the same time that we are part of the elaboration of this proposal, by mean of the collaboration that our Philosophy Department–UNT has initiated with the Omora Ethnobotanical Park (Antarctic Province, Chile).

Goals of the course

The general goal is to integrate environmental ethics within the transdisciplinary field of biocultural conservation through a first-hand experience.

Specifically, regarding the topics of the course you have to be able to define a question you want to research, a thesis you want to develop and/or support, an aspect that you want to describe, or an action you want to perform and complete during the semester. On the one hand, to work on a personal project should lead you to an understanding gained by researching, by doing, by experiencing, about roles that environmental ethics can have
within the transdisciplinary field of biocultural conservation. On the other hand, such understanding should actually contribute to conservation at the southern tip of the Americas. In this way an understanding becomes a form of ethical relation in connection to one of the most pristine areas in today’s world.

Texts


Films

*Homage to the Yahgans: The Last Indians of Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn* (Anne Chapman 1990, CNRS-Audiovisuel).


*On the Waterways of Fireland to Cape Horn* (Hans-Jürgen Grundmann, German Public Television, 2001).

*La Tierra en que Vivimos* (The Earth we Live in), two films about the biodiversity of Cape Horn and the work Darwin did in southern Magallanes (Sergio Nuño, Televisión Nacional de Chile).

Complementary books


**Internet links**

**Institutions and conventions**
http://www.omora.org
http://elap.uci.ac.cr/comunicacion-relap.php
http://www.unesco.org/mab/wnbr.htm
www.biodiv.org
http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/default.asp

**Relevant 2005 Meetings**
Water ways  UNT Water Program: http://www.water.unt.edu/waterways1/index.htm
ESA_INTECOL  Ecology at Multiple Scales: http://www.esa.org/montreal
DIVERSITAS  Integrating biodiversity science for human well-being: http://www.diversitas-osc1.org/

**Requirements**

20% Weekly reading quiz
10% Book review
10% Seminar presentation
20% Final exam
40% Term paper

**Schedule**

*January 25. Introduction to course topics: The study case of the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve*
**February 1.** *Biosphere Reserves a tool for integrating conservation and social well-being.*

Book review and reading:


**February 8.** *Implementing conservation at the southern tip of the Americas: biosphere reserves as a boundary condition*

Readings:


**February 15.** *The ecosystem approach and ecotourism as a tool for conservation*

Invited Professor: Dr. Eduard Mueller, Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional, San José Costa Rica.

Readings:


See also: [http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/](http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/)
**February 22. Conservation and the natural settings of Cape Horn**

Readings:


- Introduction, pp. 9-54.
- Magellanic Subpolar Rainforests, pp. 468-475
- Patagonia, pp. 520-527
- Antarctica pp. 544-557


**March 1. Conservation and the cultural settings of Cape Horn**

Readings:


March 8. How Cape Horn has contributed to shape our Modern scientific worldview; and discussion of individual research topics

Research proposals due! (three to five double space pages)

Readings:


March 15. Spring Break


Coordinator: Dr. Irene Klaver, Dept. Philosophy, UNT.

March 29. The Miniature forests of Cape Horn: conservation and ethical implications

Readings:


Presentations by:

Christina Nelson
Jason Moore
Angela Thornton
April 5. FitzRoy and other scientists in Cape Horn

Reading:


Presentations by:
Randy Loftis

April 12. Darwin’s Passage Around Cape Horn

Invited Professors: Drs. Barry & Amanda Glickman, University of Victoria (Canada) & Omora Foundation (Chile)
Dr. Kurt Heidinger, University of Connecticut & Omora Foundation (Chile)

Reading:


April 19. The Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve 2005 UNESCO Proposal & the Omora-UNT Field Station

Presentations by:
John Castledine
Sarah McCall
Kat Milacek

April 26. The landscapes and ethnobiology of Cape Horn today: ecotourism and conservation at the austral tip of the Americas

Reading:


Presentations by:
Elizabeth Reynolds
Alla Karash
May 3. Conservation at the austral tip of the Americas: Humanities, Science and Ethics


Presentations by:
Patrick Sewell
Benjamin Dunn

May 10. Final Exam