

Final Group Paper Assignment

Environmental Studies 303: Human Ecology and Sustainability

Instructor: Rebekah Green, rebehak.green@wwu.edu

In groups of three, you will write a group paper of about 6,000 or more words (assuming three-person team, not including bibliographies, effort analysis or image captions). The paper will be on a theoretically-informed description of a specific coupled human-natural system which you investigate. The topic should explore how humans interact with a natural resource, considering both how they impact the resource and how their society is shaped by the resource. This resource could be a geographic place, a non-human species, or a non-living material.

Each person in the group should individually research and write about a specific example or aspect of this human – nature interaction, using appropriate citations for all researched material. (For example, in a group selects human interactions with sheep, one member could research Iranian nomads, another New Zealand wool production, and another industrial meat production of veal.)

Paper Sections:

The paper should start with a *jointly* written **INTRODUCTION** (~750 words) to the resource and a brief description of the three examples and an explanation for why these examples were chosen. Here's where you should give general background on the actual resource so that each individual case study can assume the reader already knows a bit about where your resource is found, what it is, and any general stats or amazing facts about it. The introduction should also include a strong thesis statement or statement of purpose showing what you intend to argue in your discussion and reflection. **Include bibliography for the introduction, if applicable, directly at the bottom of the introduction section!**

- The paper should then include a detailed description of the *individually* written **CASE STUDIES**, one for each member of your group (~1000+ words each, but don't go over 1750 words). For each case study, explain the human-nature coupled system of people and your resource. That is, show how the resource quantity and quality is shaped by humans (human technology embedded in social and political systems that shape how that technology is used). Also explain how human culture (for example, diet, material culture, mythology, social organization, and more) are shaped by this resource. Each case study should have, at minimum, three credible academic or agency report sources cited. Each should have many other secondary sources, such as newspaper articles, encyclopedias, press releases and relevant websites. **Include bibliography for each case study directly at the bottom of that case study!**
- The paper should then include a *jointly* written **DISCUSSION** (~1500+ words) comparing and contrasting the human-nature interaction across the three researched case studies. For example, you may want to break your discussion up into sub-sections based upon some of the major themes and readings we've had in class (e.g. Liu et al.'s complex feedback loops, collapse, resource

use overshoot, tragedy of the commons, human ecology of subsistence, etc). In these subsections, explain how the case studies show evidence of these human ecology issues.

This discussion MUST include at least six class reading citations. Other relevant class discussions or activities should be cited as appropriate. **Include bibliography for the discussion directly at the bottom of the discussion section!**

- Conclude with a **REFLECTION** (~750+ words) of the implications for sustainability your human-nature coupled system brings to light, including at least two class reading citations, and your own well-reasoned opinions. **Include bibliography for the reflection directly at the bottom of the reflection section!**

Use headings to organize your paper. Major headings should be Introduction, Case 1, Case 2, Case 3, Discussion, and Reflection. Use minor headings under these major headings, as appropriate.

Under EACH MAJOR HEADING, include an **effort analysis** and **word count**. State the authors who worked on the section, the percent of effort from each author, and a brief explanation of that effort. Follow this by a word count of the section text, excluding bibliography and effort analysis.

The papers are due in BB by the final exam period Wednesday, March 20th, 8AM. If you are among those presenting on March 20th, you can have an extra day - until Thursday, March 21, 12:00pm to turn in to BB. There is a very short window for me to grade all the papers. As such, late papers will receive a 10% deduction for every 24hr period that they are turned in after the due date. No papers will be accepted after Friday, March 22, 5:00pm.

To make sure you are capturing all the pieces in the correct locations, I'm giving an example below. You are welcome to follow it exactly, or make for a more artful style. Just be sure to include required major headings, effort analysis, word count and section bibliographies.

Introduction

Effort Analysis: Alyssa Wu 70%, Jeremy Smith 30%— Alyssa took the lead drafting the introduction. Jeremy read over it and added a paragraph introducing his case study. He also checked for typos. Todd Vanderfleet did not work on this section at all because he took the lead on the discussion section.

Word Count: 780

Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah. Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah. Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah.

Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah. Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah (citation). Text of intro, blah, blah.

Text of intro continued, blah, blah. Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah. Text of intro, blah, blah, blah, blah (citation).

Introduction Bibliography

Xavier, J. (2005) Copper use worldwide. Preston Hill: New York.

Galadimer, F and Claflin, R. (2012) Metal mining in antiquity. Journal of Metals 3(4) 2543-2555.

Case Study One—Iron Usage in Ancient Societies

Effort Analysis: Todd Vanderfleet 90%, Jeremy Smith 5% Alyssa Wu 5%. This was Todd’s case study so he researched and wrote the whole case study. Jeremy reviewed for typos and gave feedback to improve the case study. Alyssa formatted it so it fit into the larger report.

Word Count Case Study One: 1200

Text of case study one. Blah, blah, blah (citation). Blah, blah, blah, see Table 1 of iron tools used in several ancient societies, showing the use of spears and armor in ancient Sumerian culture in 4000 BCE. Blah, blah, blah (citation). Blah, blah, blah (citation). Blah, blah, blah (citation).

Table 1. Iron tools in several ancient societies



Text of case study one continued. Blah, blah, blah (citation; citation).

Case One Bibliography

Galadimer, F and Claflin, R. (2012) Metal mining in antiquity. *Journal of Metals* 3(4) 2543-2555.

Smith, J. (1998) Iron ore smithing in Norseland. *Journal of European Studies* 2(1) 25-38.

Henrick, J. Liu, W., and Gonzales, M. (1991) Tool usage during antiquity. *Journal of Antiquity* 21(3) 542-557.

Discussion

Effort Analysis: Todd Vanderfleet 55% Alyssa Wu 25%, Jeremy Smith 20%. We all met and brainstormed how we wanted to discuss our case studies. Todd took the lead on the sub-section on feedback loops, Alyssa led the sub-section on ecological overshoot, and Jeremy led the sub-section on resource management. Todd’s section wound up being the longest, so he put in more effort than the others. We all wrote paragraphs about our case study for each of these subsections, sending it to the lead author. The lead author then combined them and tied these paragraphs to class readings. Todd was in charge of reading the entire discussion section and editing it for consistency. Alyssa formatted it for the final report.

Word Count: 1345

Text of discussion . . . followed by its bibliography.

And so on.
