**COURSE SCENARIO**

***Interdisciplinary Approaches to Nature in Urban Setting***

**CLASS 4**

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| **TOPIC** | Environmental Urban Anthropology: Nature and Urbanization 2 | |
| **LEARNING CONTENT - DETAILED CHARACTERISTICS** | This class will explore how human societies interact with their urban environments, impacting ecosystems and shaping socio-environmental dynamics. Through the lens of theories like political ecology and urban metabolism, we will analyze the power structures, inequalities, and ecological consequences that arise from urbanization processes. | |
| **KEY WORDS** | Environmental urban anthropology, nature, urbanization, ecosystems, socio-environmental dynamics. | |
| **SUGGESTED TOOLS** | Computer with internet connection and Microsoft Office or similar. | |
| **TIPS / METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS**  **(If applicable)** | During the class, students are aimed to collaborate and participate actively, ask questions, clarification, discuss the early anthropological research, spot the similarities and differences. | |
| **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLASSES** | **STEP 1** | Lecturer discusses ecological anthropology, emphasizing the reciprocal relationships between culture and environment.  Explore in discussion with students, how human societies adapt to and influence ecosystems in urban settings. |
| **STEP 2** | Introduce two environmental anthropology authors:  Roy Rappaport: Noted for his ecological anthropology research, particularly in human-environment interactions.  Kay Milton: Known for her work on cultural ecology and ethnobiology in urban environments. |
| **STEP 3** | Lecturer presents and explains resilience theory as the capacity of urban systems to adapt and recover from environmental challenges.  Discussion on its relevance in enhancing urban sustainability and addressing shocks. |
| **STEP 4** | Introduction of few authors representing resilience theory 1:  Ulrich Beck, a prominent sociologist, is best known for his influential concept of the "risk society." Beck's research focuses on how contemporary cities grapple with the complexities of globalization, environmental challenges, and the dynamics of modernity. He examines how urban areas become central spaces for addressing and navigating the risks and uncertainties associated with technological advancements, environmental degradation, and social transformations. Beck's work highlights the need for redefining urban governance, social interactions, and individual identities in the context of a rapidly changing world. |
| **STEP 5** | Introduction of few authors representing resilience theory 2:  C.S. Holling: A pioneer in resilience theory, emphasizing system dynamics and adaptability.  Brian Walker: Known for his contributions to resilience thinking in socio-ecological systems.  Discussion about the theories and cases from urban setting in students reflections.  Assignment for two upcoming lectures is presented (Work card No. 2) |

Work card 2 (1st assessment)

Objective: To apply theoretical frameworks of political ecology, environmental justice, ecological anthropology, and resilience theory to analyze a selected city's socio-environmental dynamics.

Task:

In groups, select a city of your choice and conduct an in-depth analysis by employing one of the four provided theories: Political Ecology, Environmental Justice, Ecological Anthropology, or Resilience Theory. Your analysis should encompass the following components:

1. Theory Introduction:

* Present a concise overview of the chosen theory, explaining its key concepts and central themes.
* Clarify the relevance of this theory in understanding urban socio-environmental dynamics.

2. City Context and Background:

* Introduce the selected city, including its geographical location, population, history, and major urban challenges.

Highlight any specific environmental issues or conflicts the city is facing.

3. Theory Application:

* Analyze the city through the lens of the chosen theory. Address the central aspects outlined in the theory's description.
* Provide examples and evidence to illustrate how the theory helps interpret the city's political, economic, environmental, or socio-cultural dimensions.

4. Case Study:

* Select a specific case study within the city that exemplifies the theory's application.
* Discuss how the theory sheds light on the case study, emphasizing its implications and insights.

5. Reflection and Discussion:

* Reflect on the challenges and benefits of using the chosen theory to analyze urban dynamics.
* Engage the class in a discussion on the group's findings, encouraging questions and reflections.

6. Recommendations and Future Directions:

* Based on the theory's insights, propose recommendations for urban planning, policy-making, or community engagement.
* Discuss potential avenues for future research that build upon your analysis.

Submission:

Prepare a group presentation that includes visuals, case study details, and clear references to the chosen theory. Submit a summary report (approx. 500 words per student) detailing your analysis, findings, and reflections.

Assessment:

Groups will be evaluated based on their understanding and application of the chosen theory, depth of analysis, case study selection, critical thinking, clarity of presentation, and the ability to engage the class in meaningful discussion.