

Paradise Lost?

Anthro/CF 3384

Critical Essay 2

Due Tuesday December 11 by 5:00 in Heroy 444, 435, or 408

Your Essay Must Be 7-10 Pages, Double Spaced, and Typewritten

Essay Topic:

Part I

Take a minute to reflect on the materials and topics we covered this semester. Using at least seven case studies from our lectures, readings, and films, discuss how humans impacted the various environments they inhabited through time. What are the differences between the environmental impacts of humans through time? Do all humans impact their environments? If so, does this separate us from nature and the rest of the natural world?

Part II

What, if anything, do these ancient examples tell us about our contemporary environmental problems and the fate of our society? If we don't alter some of our current practices, are we doomed to repeat the mistakes of some ancient societies? Finally, given many of the environmental problems the world faces today, what do you think the future of the environment and our quality of life will be like? Are there any strategies we could develop to improve this?

Successful Answers:

All answers should incorporate case studies or other examples from your readings, lectures, discussions, and films. In particular, Redman, Hughes, and Diamond should be referenced. Although they are listed as separate sections, please integrate your answers to Parts I and II. We are particularly interested in your own opinions and how you interpret the outcome of the course materials. All successful answers, however, will back up your ideas with examples from your course materials. When using a particular case study from your book, make sure you list the author and page numbers. You need only use your course textbooks, so a "References Cited" section is not necessary.

Format:

This essay must be double-spaced with a 12 pt. font and 1-inch margins. The final paper should be between 7-10 pages in length. The best essays will go beneath the surface of the issues and use detailed examples from our course materials. The essay must be *typewritten*. Hand-written and late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by a legitimate medical excuse and note from your doctor. Your grade will be based on your coverage of all aspects of the essay topic, as well as clarity, brevity, and over-all writing style. Be sure to read the question carefully as you prepare your answer. When discussing the ideas in your textbooks make sure that you also appropriately cite their work. If you have any questions about this topic please contact me at any time.