ANTH 488A - Agroecology

Spring 2024 | University of Washington | Professor Devon G. Peña

ASSIGNMENT HANDOUT #1: Agroecological Restoration Design Project Proposal

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I. Important dates

April 5. Topic statement due. One paragraph description of your design proposal.
May 17. Draft submitted for quick review (by 10pm on Canvas assignment page).
May 30. Project proposal due (by 10pm on Canvas assignment page).

II. Formatting guidelines

- Page length: 5-7 pages minimum; no maximum limit (includes bibliography of sources consulted)
- Double-spaced; 1-inch margins
- Illustrations; photos; tables: Can be integrated into text narrative or placed at the end as appendices; include descriptive captions.

III. Content focus ideas

1. Social ecological context

- Location characteristics: soil, water, climate (length of growing season, hardiness zone); are you in a center of origin and diversification of crops?
- Social and cultural context: Indigenous and tribal communities; urban and rural mix; demographic qualities.
- Economic structure (sectors, ties to markets; labor markets).

2. Bioregional qualities

- Native plants, animals
- Geographic qualities (landforms, watersheds).
- Life zones

3. Ecological state of the land, water, native wild and domesticated species

- What is the condition of the land, water, crops, wildlife?
- What are the major problems in need of resolution?

4. Proposed ecological restoration strategies and practices

- Describe the methods, practices, and technologies you would propose as part of an ecological restoration design project.

- Be sure to address all dimensions, including social-ecological context, bioregional qualities, and the ecological state of the land, water, and species

5. **Synopsis of key areas of design.** A project might include some or all of the following stages:

    - Landform, water management and earthwork design – Construction drawings
    - Infrastructure, roads, overall system layout and work organization
    - Detailed agroforestry tree and shrub layout – Landscape plant drawings
    - Structures and fencing – Construction drawings
    - Regenerative soil management (soil improving techniques) – Soil improving task plan
    - Animal integration – Pasture maps and rotation plan
    - Detailed perennial and annual crops – Crop planning
    - The dirt to gut connection in this context.

IV. Decolonizing the design

- Account for Indigenous design elements
- Discuss relationship to the goals of Indigenous food sovereignty
- How would your design address 1 or more of the 25 projects outlined by Linda T. Smith?

V. Appendices/supplementary materials

- Companion Plant Guide
- Dietary and Nutrition Guides
- Soil Classes
- Irrigation Technologies/Methods

See: Altieri, et al. 2015. Agroecology and the design of climate change-resilient farming systems

VI. Other resources

1. Regen Farmer
2. Regeneration International
3. Fields without Fences
4. Indigenous Permaculture
5. Indigenous Science of Permaculture
6. Woodbine Ecology Center – Indigenous Permaculture: Operational Framework
7. Indigenous Wisdom and Permaculture Skills (YouTube clip)

Revised March 27, 2024