

AOS/NIES 171 Spring 2019 Prof. Hitchman

Writing Assignment #1 10 points

First Draft Due Thursday, February 7

Discuss with Writing Fellows

Final Draft Due Thursday, February 21 (Please staple both drafts together.)

This assignment explores humankind's relationship with nature through writings by Jared Diamond and Chellis Glendinning. The first selection is from a book which describes a variety of previous societies which have failed by degrading their ecosystems, often through having psychological “blindness” on. Diamond's Chapter 4 focuses on the demise of the Anasazi, continuing a theme from Chapter 3 by Gore. The second selection is from the book *Ecopsychology*, which explores the idea that we may be addicted to technology as an explanation for our modern “blindness”, which are allowing us to destroy our global ecosystem.

Diamond, Jared, “The Ancient Ones: The Anasazi and Their Neighbors”, pp. 136-156 in *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, Penguin Press, New York, 2005.

Glendinning, Chellis, “Technology, Trauma, and the Wild”, pp. 41-54 in *Ecopsychology*, Eds. Roszak et al., Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1995.

Please write a 4-5 page response paper which develops a theme that ties these two selections together. Choose a title appropriate to your theme and include an opening paragraph which emphasizes your main theme. Be sure to include descriptions of the primary ideas that each author is trying to communicate. Include examples from each to support your theme.

You may wish to consider the following questions as part of your writing:

To what extent was the failure of the Anasazi due to ignoring a self-induced ecological crisis?

To what extent is modern society disconnected from the earth?

Do you think that addiction to technology is partly responsible for our inability to act to reduce the degradation of our planet?