

AOS/NIES 171 Spring 2025 Prof. Hitchman  
Writing Assignment #1 10 points

First Draft Due Thursday, February 6

Revised Paper Due Thursday, February 20

(Upload your first draft and revised final draft to canvas under Writing Assignment 1.)

This assignment explores our relationship with nature through writings by Jared Diamond and Chellis Glendinning. The first selection focuses on the cause of the disappearance of the Anasazi, or Ancient Puebloan culture at Chaco Canyon, NM around 1130 A.D. Diamond's book describes a variety of previous societies which seem to have disappeared as a result of the failure of their ecosystems, through some kind of psychological blindness. The second selection is a chapter by Chellis Glendinning from collected essays in the book *Ecopsychology*, in which she explores the possibility that "addiction to technology" might explain our modern blindness, which allows 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.

Write a 3-4-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. Describe the primary ideas that both authors are trying to communicate. Be sure to include several specific examples from each reading to support your theme.

Some questions that you may wish to consider include:

Do you think that the Chaco Canyon culture dissolved primarily due to a self-induced ecological crisis?

To what extent do you think that modern society is disconnected from the earth?

To what extent do you think our psychological relationship with technology is responsible for our current situation?