Pacific Island Cultures (ANTH 350)  
SPRING 2010

Guido Carlo Pigliasco  
Moore Hall 468  
guido@hawaii.edu  
Office Hrs: by appointment only

Description

Considered the largest geographical feature on earth, the Pacific Ocean displays an extraordinary human and cultural diversity. The Pacific has represented an object of European interest and fantasies since the European first age of discovery of the Oceanic region. In the popular imagination, the islands of the South Pacific conjure exotic images both serene and savage. “Islands of love.” Mysterious rituals. Cannibals stories. “Disappearing’ cultures.” Threatened or “collapsed” ecologies. These fantasies continue to reflect Western desires and discourses but have very little to do with how most Pacific Islanders live their lives today.

Our focus is to analyze and discuss the contemporary reality, the entanglement of “tradition” and “modernity” in the Pacific.

In almost all respects—religious, political, and cultural—Pacific islanders’ identities have been evolving and taking new forms as they become increasingly caught up in globalizing forces. Today, islanders are not only faced with the necessity of defining and articulating “national” identities in multiethnic and multicultural nation states, they are also faced with redefining their cultural and social identities as their lives and communities are barraged by change (Lockwood 2004: 31)

Our cultural identities are always in a state of becoming, a journey in which we never arrive; who we are is not a rock that it passed on from generation to generation, fixed and unchanging. Cultural identity is a process (Hereniko 1997: 428-429)

Course material  
All the literature listed in the syllabus as required reading for each session is posted in the course Resources. In addition, each week’s topic will be accompanied by a PowerPoint—converted into PDF file—which may contain (required) additional textual information.
Class participation
Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as Discussion board, chat or eventual conference sessions. The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper “netiquette” when interacting with class members and the professor.

Policy on Laulima unavailability or other technical difficulties
In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the “Overview of Laulima” file posted on class Resources.
The Outreach College is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the ITS Help Desk:
Ph. +1-808-956-8883, Email: help@hawaii.edu

Communications
This online course has built-in communication tools which will be used for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email may also be used during the semester.
Interaction with the Instructor: the instructor will communicate with students mainly using the Laulima built-in tools. Students may send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using the built-in communication tool. The instructor will reply to student personal messages or discussion board messages within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Course requirements and evaluation
| News Discussion | 15% |
| Panel Discussion | 15% |
| Film Review | 10% |
| 4 Quizzes (15% each) | 60% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

Online quizzes
The 4 quizzes are not multiple-choice formatted. All the questions in form of short essays will be based on the material posted online. The Final Exam will be just your last quiz.
You can access quizzes/exams by clicking the link on the course menu Test & Quizzes. Each quiz is timed (1:15) and can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you begin.

Film review
Pacific Island cultures are well renown for a distinctive and powerful visual elaboration in traditional art, ritual performances and aesthetics. Hence, each student will have to watch one at least video related to Pacific Island Cultures.
The films listed in the syllabus are only a partial list of the videos available at the AV/Wong Audiovisual Center at the Sinclair Library of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, designed to match the weekly topic.
Students are encouraged to select from this list; however, given the nature of this distant learning courses, they are free also to choose a film or video not included in the list. The Film review (min. two pages, double space) is due anytime during the semester.

**Panel Discussions**
4 times during the semester (view schedule), students will have the choice to prepare a written report (min. three pages, double space, plus footnotes and bibliography) based on topics presented in the course material. Every student must sign up at least in one Panel Discussion during the semester.

**News discussion**
Each week will be posted a news story taken from the *Pacific Islands Report* (http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport) provided by the East-West Center’s Pacific Islands Development Program. Each student will have to post a comment on the news on the Discussion board within 6 days. This activity of reading these current events will help the students understanding of cultural and sociopolitical regional realities, and acquiring useful information for the quizzes, discussions, and film reviews.

## Schedule

### I. INTRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Notes</th>
<th>Suggested Film</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Re-Imagining the Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Hau`ofa, “The Ocean in Us” (113-131)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hereniko, “Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism” (78-91)</td>
<td><em>Pear la ma ‘on maf</em> (The Land Has Eyes) (87min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Voyaging and Navigating the Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times” (3-28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Finney, “The Other One-Third of the Globe” (273-297)</td>
<td><em>Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey</em> (60min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Panel Discussion #1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Was Polynesian voyaging and island settlement partially “accidental”?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### II. INDIGENOUS COSMOS, WESTERN SPECTERS

5 | **Ancestors, Chiefs and Power**  
**Feb 8-14**  
Lindstrom, “Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava” (119-174)  
Marcus, “Chieftainship” (175-209)  
**Suggested Film**  
*Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka* (52min)  
*Kava: The Drink of the Gods* (90min)

---

6 | **Art and Aesthetics**  
**Feb 15-21**  
Thomas, “Introduction” (9-36)  
D’Alleva, “Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art” (149-159)  
**Suggested Film**  
*Malagan Labadama: A Tribute to Buk-Buk* (58min)

#### Panel Discussion #2  
Should indigenous art remain more “traditional”?

7 | **Body and Society**  
**Feb 22-28**  
Becker, “Disclosure and Exposure: The Body and Its Secrets Revealed” (85-103)  
Herdt, “Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation” (44-98)  
**Suggested Films**  
*Guardians of the Flutes* (50min)  
*Paradise Bent: Boys will be Girls in Samoa* (50min)

#### QUIZ 2

### III. COLONIZATION & RESISTANCE

8 | **Colonial Engagements**  
**Mar 1-7**  
Thomas, “Colonial Conversions: Difference, Hierarchy and History in Early Twentieth-Century Evangelical Propaganda” (231-246)  
Davidson, “‘The Pacific Is No Longer a Mission Field?’ Conversion in the South Pacific in the Twentieth Century (133-153)  
**Suggested Film**  
*The Last Magician* (51min)

#### Panel Discussion #3  
Does colonialism (and neo-colonialism) inevitably set up a dependence based relationship between natives and non natives?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Suggested Films</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9 | War and Cargo | Lindstrom and White, “War Stories” (3-40)  
Kahn “Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations” (285-306) | John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders (28min)  
Radio Bikini (56min) |
| 10 | Sorrow and Money | Akin and Robbins, “Cash and Shell Money in Kwaio, Solomon Islands” (103-130)  
Macintyre and Foale, “Global Imperatives and Local Desires: Competing Economic and Environmental Interests in Melanesian Communities” (149-164) | The Coconut Revolution (50min)  
Mountains of Gold: The People of Porgera (52min) |
| 11 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 12 | Law and Regionalism | Scaglion, “Legal Pluralism in Pacific Island Societies” (86-101)  
Kaplan, “Fiji’s Coups: the Politics of Representation and the Representation of Politics” (72-85) | A Race for Rights (53min) |
| 13 | Tourism and Native Hawaiians | Linnekin, “Consuming Cultures: Tourism and the Commoditization of Cultural Identity in the Island Pacific” (215-250)  
Trask, “Lovely Hula Hands: Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture” (179-197) | Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency (36min) |
| 14 | Staged Authenticities | Stanley “Ethnographic Theme Parks: The Emergence of a Global Paradigm” (35-84) |
Silverman, “Cannibalizing, Commodifying or Creating Culture? Power and Art in Sepik River Tourism” (339-357)

**Suggested Films** *Cannibal Tours* (77min)
*Welcome to Polynesia!* (54min)

---

**Panel Discussion #4**

Does tourism inevitably set up a hierarchical economically based relationship between guests and hosts?

---

### VI. GLOBAL REALITIES

15

**Pacific Transnationalism**

Lee, “All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism” (133-48)
Macpherson, “Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society” (165-181)

**Suggested Films** *The New Americans: Polynesians* (29min)
*Tatau: what one must do* (26min)

---

16

**Urban Dilemmas**

Marshall, “Market Highs: Alcohol, Drugs and the Global Economy in Oceania” (200-221)
Mitchell, “‘Killing Time’ in a Postcolonial Town: Young People and Settlements in Port Vila, Vanuatu” (358-376)

**Suggested Films** *Cowboy & Maria in Town* (59min)
*Kilim Taem* (25min)

---

17

**Indigenous Media**

Christen, “Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons” (315-345)
Hennessy, “A Ituvatuva Ni Vakadidike E Sawau: The Sawau Project” (90-92)

---

18

**May 3-5**

**QUIZ 4**
Readings References

Akin, David, and Joel Robbins

Becker, Anne E.

Borofsky, Robert

Christen, Kimberly

D'Alleva, Anne

Davidson, Allan

Finney, Ben

Hau'ofa, Epeli

Hempenstall, Peter

Hennessy, Kate

Herdt, Gilbert H.

Hereniko, Vilsoni


Kahn, Miriam


Kaplan, Martha


Kiste, Robert


Lee, Helen Morton


Lindstrom, Lamont


Lindstrom, Lamont, and Geoffrey M. White


Linnekin, Jocelyn


Macpherson, Cluny


Marcus, George

Marshall, Mac

Mitchell, Jean

Scaglion, Richard

Silverman, Eric Kline

Stanley, Nick

Strathern, Andrew

Thomas, Nicholas

—

Trask, Haunani-Kay

White, Geoffrey M., and Ty P. Kawika Tengan
**Filmography**

Bain, Carol, Edward G. Coll, and Sabra Kauka  
VIDEOTAPE 10538

Cattoni, Jan, Anthony Mullins, and Randall Wood  
VIDEOTAPE 18783

Croall, Heather, Eva Wunderman, and Alison Elder  
VIDEOTAPE 17766

Davis, John  
VIDEOTAPE 11823

Evenari, Gail, et al.  
VIDEOTAPE 16378

Hereniko, Vilsoni, and Jeannette Paulson Hereniko  
2006 Pear ta ma ’on maf (The Land Has Eyes). Honolulu: Te Maka Productions.  
DVD 3202

Holloway, Tracey, and Liz Thompson  
1994 The Last Magician. Lindfield, N.S.W.: Film Australia.  
VIDEOTAPE 19024

Kapu’uwailani-Lindsey, Elizabeth  
DVD 4702

Lipp, Thorolf, Tony Martin, and Seona Smiles  
1998 Kava: The Drink of the Gods. Suva, Fiji Islands, Bayreuth, Germany: produced by the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, distributed by TMT Film.  
VIDEOTAPE 17039
McLaren, Les, and Annie Stiven
VIDEOTAPE 8674

Nairn, Charlie, et al.
DVD 1483

Nicholson, R. C., and Australian Religious Film Society.
1988  The Transformed Isle Barbarism to Christianity: a genuine portrayal of yesterday and today, the story of fifteen years among the head hunters of the island of Vella Lavel. Sydney: Australian Religious Film Society.
VIDEOTAPE 1940

O'Rourke, Dennis
VIDEOTAPE 1296

Owen, Chris
VIDEOTAPE 14788

Reddish, Paul
VIDEOTAPE 12405

Rotheroe, Dom, Darren Bender, and Mike Chamberlain
VIDEOTAPE 20942

Sillers, Ron, and Peter Benoit
VIDEOTAPE 9747

Stone, Robert, et al.
DVD 1856
Thomas, Larry
   VIDEOTAPE 19892

Tristram, John, I. James Wilson, and Nadine Amadio
   Princeton, NJ: Juniper Films, Special Broadcasting Service (Australia), Discovery Channel (Firm),
   Dandelion Distribution, Films for the Humanities.
   VIDEOTAPE 12376

Van der Ryn, Micah
   1997   Tatau: What One Must Do. Honolulu, HI: Pacific Islanders in Communications, Flying
   Fox Films.
   DVD 3171

Yanehiro, Jan, et al.
   Telecommunications Association.
   VIDEOTAPE 11821