

# Pacific Island Cultures (ANTH 350) SPRING 2010



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## 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 Lulima 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 Lulima” 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](mailto: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 Lulima 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%)       |
|                      | <hr/>       |
|                      | <b>100%</b> |

## **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

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>1</b><br><b>Jan 11-17</b> | <b>Introduction</b><br>White and Tengan, "Disappearing Worlds: Anthropology and Cultural Studies in Hawai'i and the Pacific (381-416).<br>Borofsky, "Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific?" (41-58)<br><b>Suggested Film</b> <i>Then There Were None</i> (27min) |
| <b>2</b><br><b>Jan 18-24</b> | <b>Re-Imagining the Pacific</b><br>Hau'ofa, "The Ocean in Us" (113-131)<br>Hereniko, "Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism" (78-91)<br><b>Suggested Film</b> <i>Pear ta ma 'on maf (The Land Has Eyes)</i> (87min)                                       |
| <b>3</b><br><b>Jan 25-31</b> | <b>Voyaging and Navigating the Pacific</b><br>Kiste, "Pre-Colonial Times" (3-28)<br>Finney, "The Other One-Third of the Globe" (273-297)<br><b>Suggested Film</b> <i>Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey</i> (60min)  |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel Discussion #1</b><br/><b>Was Polynesian voyaging and island settlement partially "accidental"?</b></p> |
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4  
Feb 1-7  
**Europeans in Hawai'i and the Pacific**  
Hempstall, "Imperial Manoeuvres" (29-39)  
Strathern, "European Contact" (121-130)  
**Suggested Film** *The Transformed Isle Barbarism to Christianity* (30min)

QUIZ 1

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II. INDIGENOUS COSMOS, WESTERN SPECTERS

5  
Feb 8-14  
**Ancestors, Chiefs and Power**  
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)

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6  
Feb 15-21  
**Art and Aesthetics**  
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"?

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7  
Feb 22-28  
**Body and Society**  
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

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III. COLONIZATION & RESISTANCE

8  
Mar 1-7  
**Colonial Engagements**  
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?

- 9  
Mar 8-14      **War and Cargo**  
Lindstrom and White, "War Stories" (3-40)  
Kahn "Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations"  
(285-306)  
**Suggested Films** *John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific  
Islanders* (28min)  
*Radio Bikini* (56min)
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#### IV. DECOLONIZATION & MODERNIZATION

- 10  
Mar 15-21      **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)  
**Suggested Films** *The Coconut Revolution* (50min)  
*Mountains of Gold: The People of Porgera* (52min)
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- 11  
Mar 22-28      **SPRING BREAK**
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- 12  
Mar 22-28      **Law and Regionalism**  
Scaglione, "Legal Pluralism in Pacific Island Societies" (86-101)  
Kaplan, "Fiji's Coups: the Politics of Representation and the Representation of  
Politics" (72-85)  
**Suggested Film** *A Race for Rights* (53min)

#### QUIZ 3

#### V. TOURISM & COMMODIFICATION

- 13  
Mar 29-Apr 4      **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)  
**Suggested Film** *Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency*  
(36min)
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- 14  
Apr 5-11      **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?**

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**VI. GLOBAL REALITIES**

**15**  
**Apr 12-18**

**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)

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**16**  
**Apr 19-25**

**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)

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**17**  
**Apr 26-May 2**

**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)

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**18**  
**May 3-5**

**QUIZ 4**

## Readings References

Akin, David, and Joel Robbins

1999 Cash and Shell Money in Kwaio, Solomon Islands. *In Money and Modernity: State and Local Currencies in Melanesia*. ASAO monograph 17. D. Akin and J. Robbins, eds. Pp. 103-30. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Becker, Anne E.

1995 Disclosure and Exposure: The Body and Its Secrets Revealed. *In Body, Self, and Society: The View From Fiji*. Pp. 85-103. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Borofsky, Robert

2004 Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific? *In Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 41-58. Upper Saddle River, NJ.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Christen, Kimberly

2005 Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons. *International Journal of Cultural Property* 12:315-345.

D'Alleva, Anne

1998 Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art. *In Arts of the Pacific islands*. 149-159, ed. Pp. 2. New York: H.N. Abrams.

Davidson, Allan

2004 "The Pacific Is No Longer a Mission Field?" Conversion in the South Pacific in the Twentieth Century. *In Christianity Reborn : the global expansion of evangelicalism in the twentieth century*. D.M. Lewis, ed. Pp. 133-153. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Erdmans Pub.

Finney, Ben

1994 The Other One-Third of the Globe. *Journal of World History* 5(2):273-297.

Hau'ofa, Epeli

2000 The Ocean in Us. *In Voyaging through the Contemporary Pacific*. D. Hanlon and G.M. White, eds. Pp. 113-131. Lanham, Md.: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers.

Hempenstall, Peter

1994 Imperial Manoeuvres. *In Tides of History : the Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century*. K.R. Howe, R.C. Kiste, and B.V. Lal, eds. Pp. 29-39. St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin.

Hennessy, Kate

2009 *A Ituvatuva Ni Vakadidike E Sawau*: The Sawau Project DVD. *Visual Anthropology Review* 25(1): 90-92.

Herd, Gilbert H.

1982 Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation. *In* *Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea*. G.H. Herdt, ed. Pp. 44-98. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hereniko, Vilsoni

2000 Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism. *In* *Remembrance of Pacific Pasts: An Invitation to Remake History*. R. Borofsky, ed. Pp. 78-91. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Kahn, Miriam

2004 Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 285-306. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Kaplan, Martha

2004 Fiji's Coups: the Politics of Representation and the Representation of Politics. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 72-85. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Kiste, Robert

1994 Pre-Colonial Times. *In* *Tides of History: The Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century*. K.R. Howe, R.C. Kiste, and B.V. Lal, eds. Pp. 3-28. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Lee, Helen Morton

2004 All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 133-48. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Lindstrom, Lamont

1997 Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava. *In* *Kava the Pacific Elixir : the Definitive Guide to its Ethnobotany, History, and Chemistry*. V. Lebot, M.D. Merlin, and L. Lindstrom, eds. Pp. 119-174. Rochester, Vt: Healing Arts Press.

Lindstrom, Lamont, and Geoffrey M. White

1989 War Stories. *In* *The Pacific Theater: Island Representations of World War II*. G.M. White and L. Lindstrom, eds. Pp. 3-40. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Linnekin, Jocelyn

1997 Consuming Cultures: Tourism and the Commoditization of Cultural Identity in the Island Pacific. *In* *Tourism, Ethnicity and the State in Asian and Pacific Societies*. M. Picard and R. Wood, eds. Pp. 215-50. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Macpherson, Cluny

2004 Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 165-181. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Marcus, George



1989 Chieftainship. *In* *Developments in Polynesian Ethnology*. A. Howard and R. Borofsky, eds. Pp. 175-211. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Marshall, Mac

2004 Market Highs: Alcohol, Drugs and the Global Economy in Oceania. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 200-221. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Mitchell, Jean

2004 'Killing Time' in a Postcolonial Town: Young People and Settlement in Port Vila, Vanuatu. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 358-76. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Scaglione, Richard

2004 Legal Pluralism in Pacific Island Societies. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 86-101. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Silverman, Eric Kline

2004 Cannibalizing, Commodifying or Creating Culture? Power and Art in Sepik River Tourism. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 339-57. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Stanley, Nick

1998 Ethnographic Theme Parks: The Emergence of a Global Paradigm. *In* *Being Ourselves for You: The Global Display of Cultures*. Pp. 32-84. London: Middlesex University Press.

Strathern, Andrew

2002 European Contact. *In* *Oceania: an Introduction to the Cultures and Identities of Pacific Islanders*. A. Strathern, P. Stewart, L. Carucci, L. Poyer, R. Feinberg, and C. Macpherson, eds. Pp. 121-130. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press.

Thomas, Nicholas

1995 Introduction. *In* *Oceanic art*. Pp. 9-36. New York, N.Y.: Thames and Hudson.

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Trask, Haunani-Kay

1993 Lovely Hula Hands: Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture. *In* *From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i*. Pp. 179-197. Monroe, Me.: Common Courage Press.

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

2001 Disappearing Worlds: Anthropology and Cultural Studies in Hawai'i and the Pacific. *Contemporary Pacific* (Special Issue) 13(2):381-416.

## Filmography

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

1994 Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency. Puhi, Hawaii: Surfing Education Association and Kaua'i Worldwide Communications.  
VIDEOTAPE 10538

Cattoni, Jan, Anthony Mullins, and Randall Wood

1998 Kilim Taem. Suva, Fiji: UNICEF, AUSAID, Vanuatu National Cultural Council.  
VIDEOTAPE 18783

Croall, Heather, Eva Wunderman, and Alison Elder

1999 Paradise Bent: Boys will be Girls in Samoa. New York: Filmmakers Library.  
VIDEOTAPE 17766

Davis, John

1993 Mountains of Gold: the People of Porgera. New York, NY: Davis Film and Video, distributed by Filmmakers Library.  
VIDEOTAPE 11823

Evenari, Gail, et al.

1999 Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey. [Charlotte, N.C.]: Maiden Voyage Productions, distributed by PBS Home Video.  
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

2006  
[1996] Then There Were None. Honolulu, HI: Pacific Islanders in Communication.  
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

1991 Cowboy & Maria in Town. Watertown MA: Documentary Educational Resources, Australian Film Commission, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.

VIDEOTAPE 8674

Nairn, Charlie, et al.

2003 Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka. London: Granada Television International : distributed by Shanachie Entertainment.

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

1987 Cannibal Tours. Los Angeles, CA: O'Rourke & Associates, Direct Cinema Ltd.

VIDEOTAPE 1296

Owen, Chris

1982 Malagan Labadama: A Tribute to Buk-Buk. Watertown, MA: Documentary Education Resources, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.

VIDEOTAPE 14788

Reddish, Paul

1994 Guardians of the Flutes. New York, N.Y.: Filmmakers Library British Broadcasting Corporation. Television Service.

VIDEOTAPE 12405

Rotheroe, Dom, Darren Bender, and Mike Chamberlain

2000 The Coconut Revolution. London: Stampede Productions, Distributed by Culture Shop.

VIDEOTAPE 20942

Sillers, Ron, and Peter Benoit

1992 Welcome to Polynesia! Laie, Hawaii: Polynesian Cultural Center, Calcon Video Enterprises.

VIDEOTAPE 9747

Stone, Robert, et al.

2003 Radio Bikini. [United States]: Distributed by IFC Films.,Docurama, New Video Group.

DVD 1856

Thomas, Larry

2001 A Race for Rights. Suva, Fiji: L. Thomas.  
VIDEOTAPE 19892

Tristram, John, I. James Wilson, and Nadine Amadio

1995 John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders.  
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.

1994 The New Americans: Polynesians. San Mateo, CA: KCSM-TV, National Asian American  
Telecommunications Association.  
VIDEOTAPE 11821