



Anthropology of Melanesia

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Anthropology 449 Fall 2010

About

Day: M, W, F

Time: 11:30-12:20

Location: Saunders 345

Instructor: Alex Golub

Phone: 956-6576

Email: golub@hawaii.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 1-3 pm, Saunders 313

Description

This course is designed to familiarize students with the cultures of the area known as Melanesia: the countries of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu, as well as New Caledonia (part of France) and Papua (part of Indonesia). This semester our focus will be on Papua and Papua New Guinea. The class will be organized in a discussion format, and will consist of a close reading of a small number of works. The focus will be on a deep understanding of cultural systems, and how anthropologists analyze them.

This course has an A (area) designation

Who Should Take This Course

Upper-class, honors, or smart and ambitious undergraduates.

Anthropology graduate students -- this class has an A (area) designation.

Anyone who is interested in Melanesia, Papua, or Papua New Guinea.

Anyone interested in ethnography -- how to read it, and how to do anthropological analysis of culture.

What I Want You To Learn In This Class

- Find and label the countries of Melanesia and their capitals on a map.
- Compare your own studies and experiences with Melanesia: When you go to a wedding or read about towns in Morocco, you should be able to think to yourself 'now how would they do this in Papua New Guinea?'
- Analyze ethnographic materials in the same way as the authors we read.
- Rock other anthropology classes with your superb analysis of the rhetorical structure of the ethnographies you read.
- Explain the cultures of Melanesia in the broader context of colonialism and decolonization: the next time someone tells you the Solomon Islands is full of primitive headhunters, you should be able to convince them they are wrong.

Participate in an academic seminar in which a class discusses ethnographic texts

Assignments

There are 300 points available to earn in this class. Grades will be awarded based on points earned:

300-290 A+	259-250 B	199-190 D+
289-280 A	249-240 B-	189-180 D
279-270 A-	239-230 C+	179-170 D-

Points will be earned on the basis of the following work:

Attendance (60)

There are 35 sessions in class this semester. You earn 2 points for attending each one.

Midterm (50)

This will be a five-page take-home paper which asks you to analyze how a short piece works, ethnographically.

Participation (120)

Simply coming to class is not enough. We will also be discussing the material using a 'fishbowl' discussion method. I will explain this in detail later as the exact details will be affected by total enrollment. Basically some students will be responsible for leading discussion each class, probably about 10 times in the course of class for about 12 points each time.

Final (70)

This will be a seven-page take-home final paper which asks you to compare and contrast two pieces we have read in class (I will explain exactly how this works later)

Schedule

1 22 Aug - 28 Aug	Introduction
	Madventures, Papua
	Osbourne "Strangers In The Forest"
2 29 Aug - 4 Sep	Bashkow, "The Meaning of Whitemen" ch. 1 (skip chapter outline) Wardle ch.1 to page 26
	Bashkow ch 2
	<i>Attendance</i> begins Bashkow ch 3 (63-94)
3 5 Sep - 11 Sep	Labor Day, No Class
	Bashkow pp. 95-120 (ch. 4 first half) Wardle ch. 2
	Bashkow pp. 120-144 (ch. 4 second half) Wardle ch. 3
4 12 Sep - 18 Sep	Bashkow pp. 145-163 (ch. 5 first half) Wardle ch. 4
	Bashkow pp. 163-187 (ch. 5 second half) Wardle ch. 5
	Bashkow pp. 187-208 (ch 5 third half) Wardle ch. 6
5 19 Sep - 25 Sep	Bashkow pp. 209-234 (ch 6 part 1) Wardle ch. 7
	Bashkow pp. 235-259 (ch 6 part 2) Wardle ch. 8
	Midterm Hand-out Film: Man Without Pigs (part I)
6 26 Sep - 2 Oct	Midterm Due Film: Man Without Pigs (part II)
	Morauta, "Indigenous Anthropology in Papua New Guinea"
	Waiko, Oian Dumbari: My Sojourns Away From Home
7 3 Oct - 9 Oct	Waiko, "Tugata: Tradition, Commitment"

Waiko, "Head" and "Tail: The Shaping of Oral Traditions Among the Binandere"

Waiko, "Australian Administration Under The Binandere Thumb"

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10 Oct - 16

Waiko, "Conservation in Papua New Guinea"

Madventures, Papua

Stasch 1-14

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17 Oct - 23 Oct

Stasch 14-23

Stasch, 25-38

Stasch 38-54

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24 Oct - 30 Oct

Stasch 54-72

Stasch 73-89

Stasch 89-104

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31 Oct - 6 Nov

Stasch 105-126

Stasch 126-139

Stasch 140-158

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7 Nov - 13 Nov

Stasch, 158-172

Stasch, 208-233

Stasch, 233-254

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14 Nov - 20 Nov

Stasch, Conclusion

Ursula K LeGuin, Solitude

Movie: "Going Tribal"

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21 Nov - 27 Nov

Stasch, Textual Iconicity and the Primitivist Cosmos

	Stasch, skype in-class meeting
	<i>F Nov 26 Thanksgiving break do not come to class</i>
15 28 Nov - 4 Dec	Golub ch.1
	Golub ch. 2
	Golub ch. 3
16 5 Dec - 11 Dec	Golub ch.4
	Golub ch. 5 and epilogue
	No Class Friday
17 12 Dec - 18 Dec	Final due WEDNESDAY 13 December by 2pm.

Bibliography

- Bashkow, Ira. *The Meaning of Whitemen : Race and Modernity in the Orokaiva Cultural World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.
- Gay y Blasco, Paloma, Huon Wardle, and Inc , NetLibrary. *How to Read Ethnography*. London; New York: Routledge, 2007.
- Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Birthday of the World and Other Stories*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.
- Morauta, L, A Chowning, A M Gilliam, F Hafer, D Kayongo-Male, H B Levine, R F Maher, K Nakleh, J L Simet, and A J Strathern. "Indigenous Anthropology in Papua New Guinea [And Comments and Reply]." *Current Anthropology* 20, no. 3 (1979): 561-576.
- Osborne, Lawrence. "Strangers in the Forest." *New Yorker*, 18 April 2005.
- Stasch, Rupert. *Society of Others : Kinship and Mourning in a West Papuan Place*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009.
- Waiko, J. "Australian Administration Under the Binandere Thumb." *Papua New Guinea: A century of colonial impact, 1884--1984* (1989): 75-108.
- Waiko, J, and K Jiregari. "Conservation in Papua New Guinea: Custom and Tradition." *Monograph 16. Traditional Conservation Practices in Papua New Guinea: Implications for Today* (1982): 21-38.
- Waiko, John. "'Head" and "Tail": The Shaping of Oral Traditions Among the Binandere in Papua New Guinea." *Oral Tradition* 5, no. 2-3 (1990): 334-353.
- . *Oian Dumbari : My Sojourns Away From Home*. S.l.: s.n., 19.

———. "Tugata: Culture, Identity, and Commitment." In 1994.

Filmography

Man Without Pigs

Madventures: Papua (Finnish TV Show)

Going Tribal