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+
- 289-280 A
- 279-270 A-
- 269-260 B+
- 259-250 B
- 249-240 B-
- 239-230 C+
- 199-190 D+
- 189-180 D
- 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**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Aug - 28 Aug</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Madventures, Papua&lt;br&gt;Osbourne “Strangers In The Forest”</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Aug - 4 Sep</td>
<td>Bashkow, “The Meaning of Whitemen” ch. 1 (skip chapter outline)&lt;br&gt;Wardle ch.1 to page 26</td>
<td>Bashkow ch 2&lt;br&gt; Attendance begins&lt;br&gt; Bashkow ch 3 (63-94)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Sep - 11 Sep</td>
<td>Labor Day, No Class</td>
<td>Bashkow pp. 95-120 (ch. 4 first half) Wardle ch. 2&lt;br&gt; Bashkow pp. 120-144 (ch. 4 second half) Wardle ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sep - 18 Sep</td>
<td>Bashkow pp. 145-163 (ch. 5 first half) Wardle ch. 4</td>
<td>Bashkow pp. 163-187 (ch. 5 second half) Wardle ch. 5&lt;br&gt; Bashkow pp. 187-208 (ch 5 third half) Wardle ch. 6</td>
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<td>19 Sep - 25 Sep</td>
<td>Bashkow pp. 209-234 (ch 6 part 1) Wardle ch. 7</td>
<td>Bashkow pp. 235-259 (ch 6 part 2) Wardle ch. 8&lt;br&gt; Midterm Hand-out&lt;br&gt; Film: Man Without Pigs (part I)</td>
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<td>26 Sep - 2 Oct</td>
<td>Midterm Due</td>
<td>Midterm Due&lt;br&gt; Film: Man Without Pigs (part II)&lt;br&gt; Morauta, “Indigenous Anthropology in Papua New Guinea”</td>
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Waiko, “Head” and “Tail: The Shaping of Oral Traditions Among the Binandere”

Waiko, “Australian Administration Under The Binandere Thumb”

Waiko, “Conservation in Papua New Guinea”

Madventures, Papua

Stasch 1-14

17 Oct - 23 Oct

Stasch 14-23

Stasch, 25-38

Stasch 38-54

24 Oct - 30 Oct

Stasch 54-72

Stasch 73-89

Stasch 89-104

31 Oct - 6 Nov

Stasch 105-126

Stasch 126-139

Stasch 140-158

7 Nov - 13 Nov

Stasch, 158-172

Stasch, 208-233

Stasch, 233-254

14 Nov - 20 Nov

Stasch, Conclusion

Ursula K LeGuin, Solitude

Movie: “Going Tribal”

21 Nov - 27 Nov

Stasch, Textual Iconicity and the Primitivist Cosmos
Stasch, skype in-class meeting

F Nov 26 Thanksgiving break do not come to class

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


**Filmography**

Man Without Pigs
Madventures: Papua (Finnish TV Show)
Going Tribal