

# ANTHROPOLOGY 48630(001)/68241(001)

## CULTURES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Final Exam: 10:15 AM–12:30 PM, Wed, May 7

Spring 2014  
Class Time: M,W: 12: 30–1:45 PM  
Office Hrs: M,W 10:30 AM–12:30 PM  
email: [rfeinber@kent.edu](mailto:rfeinber@kent.edu)  
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This course will introduce students to the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Islands. The basic text by Strathern et al. will provide an overview of Pacific geography, prehistory, settlement, and dominant cultural themes. In addition, the ethnography by Michael French Smith will provide an in-depth look at a community representing Melanesia, one of Oceania's three major culture areas. Grades for undergraduate students will be based on a mid-term (50%) and a **comprehensive** final exam (50%). Each graduate student will also be required to write a term paper and present his/her findings to the class during the last week of the semester; undergraduates may choose to write an optional term paper. For students writing papers, the final grade will be based, in approximately equal proportions, on the paper and each of the two exams. Participation in classroom discussion may also be considered in determination of final grades.

### READING LIST

Strathern, Andrew, et al.: *Oceania: An Introduction to the Cultures and Identities of Pacific Islanders*.  
Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.  
Smith, Michael F.: *Village on the Edge*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

### TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

**[Changes in this schedule may be announced in class at any time]**

1/13–1/15: INTRODUCTION

Reading — *Oceania*: Introduction (Stewart and Strathern, pp. 1–7).

1/20: PACIFIC GEOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

Reading — *Oceania*: Introduction (Stewart and Strathern, pp. 1–7).

*Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 100–106).

*Oceania*: The West Central Pacific (Carucci and Poyer, pp. 182–187).

1/22: PREHISTORY

Reading — *Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 106–108).

*Oceania*: The West Central Pacific (Carucci and Poyer, pp. 187–196).

1/27–1/29: VOYAGING, NAVIGATION, AND SETTLEMENT

Reading — *Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 108–114).

— Limitations of Language.... (Feinberg and Genz; Blackboard)

2/3–2/5: NO CLASS (ASAO Meeting)

2/10: POLYNESIA (Geography, Ecology, Subsistence and Expressive Arts)

- Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 114–117).
- 2/12: POLYNESIA (Culture and Social Organization)  
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 117-121).
- 2/17: Film—*Children of the Long Canoe*.
- 2/19: Film—*Anuta “Tribe” Show*.
- 2/24–2/26: POLYNESIA (European Contact; Political and Religious History)  
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 121–130).  
— Early European Contact Re-enacted (Feinberg; Blackboard)
- 3/3: POLYNESIA (Contemporary Issues: New Zealand Maori)  
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 130–139).
- 3/5: POLYNESIA (Contemporary Issues: Samoa)  
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 139–147).
- 3/10–3/12: POLYNESIA (Contemporary Issues: Anuta)  
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 147–154).
- 3/17: MID-TERM EXAM
- 3/19: MELANESIA (Introduction)  
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 10–14).
- 3/24–3/26: NO CLASS (Spring Break)
- 3/31: MELANESIA (Fiji, New Caledonia, & Vanuatu)  
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 15–28).
- 4/2: MELANESIA (Solomon Islands)  
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 29–39).
- 4/7: MELANESIA (New Guinea)  
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 40–78).
- 4/9: Film—*Tukana*.
- 4/14–4/16: MICRONESIA (Overview)  
Reading — *Oceania: The West Central Pacific* (Carucci and Poyer, pp. 182–235).
- 4/21–4/23: MELANESIA AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE  
Reading — Smith: *Village on the Edge*.
- 4/8-4/30: GRAD STUDENT PRESENTATIONS