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Term: Fall 2009
Office hrs.: F 12-2 p.m.
Office: 255 Condon

ANTH 234
PACIFIC ISLAND SOCIETIES
Tues. & Thurs. 12-1:50 pm; 129 McKenzie Hall
(GTF: Ms. Sarah Johnson)

Course goals

The Pacific Islands cover a vast oceanic territory and exhibit considerable variety. Some islands are more egalitarian than others; some are big and others small; some aren't islands at all but atolls; and island colonial histories and postcolonial realities also differ. This course provides an introduction to the region, focusing on Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. Students will learn about:

- island environments and their vulnerabilities, especially in an era of global warming
- the ethic of sharing; ceremonial exchange
- migration and remittances as integral to today's island economies
- Pacific Island art forms, especially "dance," a composite art form comprised of music, poetry, and dance
- culture and language loss and revival
- global warming and its impact on low-lying islands and atolls
- aspects of Pacific Island colonial history, including U.S. imperialism in the Pacific
- the Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement
- nuclear testing in the Pacific and efforts to receive reparations for the damage done to island environments and the peoples of the Pacific
- aspects of gender and sexuality
- island states

It is the instructor's hope that students will acquire an appreciation of Pacific Island cultures and find ways, in their years at the University of Oregon, to learn more about Pacific Islanders, their values, and their lifeways.

Readings and films

There are no books to buy. All readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site and/or are available online. Films will be shown in class and (in most, but not all cases) will be available on reserve at the Knight Library.

Performance requirements

There will be a midterm and a final. Both exams will be short answer (multiple choice, fill in the blank, T/F, brief definition) exams. There will be some in-class prepping for these exams, but the burden of performance is ultimately on the student's shoulders. In addition, quizzes on the readings will be administered in class on the following dates: 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 11/24. The final will be comprehensive.

Midterm: 40% of the grade

Final: 45% of the grade

Quizzes on readings and internet viewings: 15% of the grade (best 3 of 4 grades) Quizzes will be on 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, and 11/24. Each quiz will test knowledge of the readings and internet viewings since the last quiz, with the exception of the first quiz, which will test knowledge of the readings assigned so far.

Films and film clippings; guest lecture; possible other contributions

Nothing can take the place of first-hand experience of the Pacific Islands. However, absent that, films introduce students to the physical beauty of the islands and to the everyday lives of Pacific islanders. Most of the films will be on reserve at the Knight Library. If no "VT" number is supplied, the film must be accessed through the instructor. From time to time you will be directed toward video content on the internet, which you will be expected to view. Look to the Blackboard postings ("course documents" to "course readings") for an indication of what these video clips are. **If you have personal knowledge of any Pacific island and want to give a short presentation in class, please see me and we will discuss that possibility.** Dr. Moshe Rapaport (University of Hawai'i), who is a geographer, has agreed to give a lecture on the geography of the Pacific on 10/1/09.

Graduate Teaching Fellow (GTF)

The GTF for the course is Ms. Sarah Johnson (sarahj@uoregon.edu), a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology. Her office is in 365 Condon Hall. She will have one office hour a week, on Mondays from 11 am to 12 pm; her office hours will be extended at midterm and exam time. You may consult with her by appointment if her office hour is inconvenient for you.

Classroom behavior

I expect students to show respect to one another and to myself. Those who wish to use their computers in class must sit in the first two rows of the class. All other electronic devices should be turned off while in the classroom.

Documented excuses

Midterm and final make-ups will be administered only with a well-documented excuse. Quiz make-ups will be administered only if the student has missed two quizzes with well-documented excuses.

Disability students

If you require special accommodation, consult with Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall) and with me (to implement the accommodation).

Academic Learning Service course this term

ALS 199: Grammar Basics is a course that the Academic Learning Services is offering this term. Recommended for students who want to learn the language of grammar, this course focuses on parts of speech, phrases, clauses, and sentence construction. Ideal for students learning a foreign language or preparing for more advanced study of English grammar. Meets weeks 3-9 of the fall term. 2 credits. Contact: 346-3226.

Academic calendar for the term

<http://registrar.uoregon.edu/calendars/academic>

Important dates:

10/8/09 First quiz on readings and internet viewings

10/22/09 Second quiz on readings and internet viewings; study guide for midterm posted on Blackboard

10/27/09 Review for midterm

10/29/09 Sit-down midterm

11/12/00 Third quiz on readings and internet viewings

11/24/09 Fourth quiz on readings and internet viewings; study guide for final posted on Blackboard

12/1/09 Review for final

12/9/09 Sit-down final (8-10 a.m.)

Week one

9/29/09 Welcome and introduction: Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia

Kirch, Patrick Vinton. 2000. "Defining Oceania" and "Linguistic, Human, Biological, and Cultural Variation in Oceania." In *On the Road of the Winds: An Archaeological History of the Pacific Islands before European Contact*, pp. 4-10. Berkeley: University of California Press.

10/1/09 Introduction to the geography of the Pacific

Guest lecturer: Moshe Rapaport (University of Hawai'i)

Kirch, Patrick Vinton. 2000. "Pacific Island Environments." In *On the Road of the Winds: An Archaeological History of the Pacific Islands before European Contact*, pp. 42-50 (stop at "Climatic Factors in the Pacific"). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week two

10/6/09 The peopling of the Pacific and contemporary interest in ancient navigational knowledge and technique

Kirch, Patrick Vinton. 2000. "Polynesian Voyaging." In *On the Road of the Winds: An Archaeological History of the Pacific Islands before European Contact*, pp. 238-245. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Note that the file repeats two pages; ignore the flaw and read from p. 238 through p. 245.)

Film: *Sacred Vessels* (VT 06740)

Internet viewing: Hokule'a: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uo4gHQze-g>

10/8/09 Chiefs and big men: the Tongan kava ceremony v. moka exchange

Sahlins, Marshall. 1963/2000. "Poor Man, Rich Man, Big-Man, Chief: Political Types in Melanesia and Polynesia." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 5(3):285-303. Reprinted in Sahlins, *Culture in Practice* (2000).

Film clips: *Kava kuo Heka* (Department of Anthropology video collection), *The Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka* (VT 01834).

Internet viewing: Informal kava consumption in New Zealand:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-jKdkzsgF8&feature=related>

First quiz on readings and internet viewings

Week three

10/13/09 Chiefs and big men: the Tongan kava ceremony v. moka exchange, cont.; Island dancing: Tongan lakalaka; Hawaiian hula; highlands singsing

Lum, Wesley. 1993. "The Hawaiian Tradition of Hula." In "E Huli: A collection of essays and poems . . . in observance of the 100th centennial of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy," pp. 20-21. Honolulu: Kapi'olani Community College.

Kaepler, Adrienne. 1993. "Dance in Tonga: The Communication of Social Values Through an Artistic Medium." In *Poetry in Motion: Studies of Tongan Dance*, pp. 49-59. Vava'u, Tonga: Vava'u Press.

Film segments: *Haka he Langi Kuo Tau: We Dance in the Ecstasy of Singing* and *Kava kuo Heka* (Department of Anthropology video collection)

Internet viewings: 1) Goroka show (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcealFUTqb4>)
2) Informal (social) Tongan kava ceremony (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFf-ap9YKv8>)

10/15/09 Tongan lakalaka; Hawaiian hula, highlands singsing, cont.

Week four

10/20/09 Gender and sexuality I

Sillitoe, Paul. 1998. "Gender Relations in the Western Highlands." In *An Introduction to the Anthropology of Melanesia*, pp. 131-147. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Shore, Bradd. 1982. *Sala'ilua*, pp. New York: Columbia University Press.

10/22/09 Gender and sexuality II

Besnier, Niko. 2000. "Transvestism (Transgenderism)." In *The Pacific Islands: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Brij V. Lal and Kate Fortune, pp. 416-417. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Available online (http://www.geocities.com/uttanu/besnier_sex.html) and on the class Blackboard site.

Besnier, Niko. 2000. "Ritualized Homosexuality." In *The Pacific Islands: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Brij V. Lal and Kate Fortune, pp. 417-418. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Available online: (http://www.geocities.com/uttanu/besnier_sex.html) and on the class Blackboard site.

Film clips: *Paradise Bent* (VT 06563)
Guardians of the Flutes (Dept. of Anthropology film collection; will be placed on reserve in the Knight Library)

Second quiz on readings and internet viewings

Study guide for midterm posted on Blackboard

Week five

10/27/09 Review for midterm

10/29/09 Sit-down Midterm, 129 McKenzie

Week six**11/3/09 Return of midterm; global climate change and its impact on the Pacific Islands****11/5/09 Global warming's impact on the Pacific Islands: the case of Tuvalu**

Internet reading: Barker, Holly. 2008. "The Inequities of Climate Change and the Small Island Experience." In CounterPunch. (<http://www.counterpunch.org/barker11042008.html>)

Film: *Time and Tide* (instructor's copy)

Week seven**11/10/09 Migration: Tongan and Samoan Cases**

Small, Cathy A., and David L. Dixon. 2004. "Tonga: Migration and the Homeland." <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=198>

Van der Ryn, Micah. 1997. "A Chief in Two Worlds," pp. 13-41. Berkeley: University of California Extension, Center for Media and Independent Learning, 2000 Center Street, Fourth Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Film clip: *A Chief in Two Worlds* (VT 03664)

11/12/09 The hula (again): renaissance in the homeland and in the diaspora

Stillman, Amy Ku'uleialoha. "Hawaiian Hula Competitions: Event, Repertoire, Performance, Tradition." *Journal of American Folklore* 109(434). Read only pp. 357-366, stopping at "Repertoire."

Film: *Na Kamalei: The Men of Hula* (instructor's copy)

Third quiz on readings and internet viewings**Week eight****11/17/09 U.S. imperialism in the Pacific: Hawai'i and the Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement**

Trask, Haunani-Kay. 1987. "Hawai'i Colonization and De-colonization." In *Class and Culture in the South Pacific*, ed. by Anthony Hooper et al., pp. 154-174. Auckland and Suva: Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland, and Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific.

Internet reading: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/home.php> (read "culture," "restoration," "history")

Film clips: *Noho Hewa, Act of War* (VT 02186), *Kaho 'olawe* (Dept. of Anthropology film collection)

11/19/09 U.S. imperialism in the Pacific: Hawai'i, cont.; U.S. imperialism in the Pacific: nuclear testing in the Marshall Island

Internet readings and viewing:

1. “ Case 3: ‘Atomic Testing at Bikini island’”:
http://highschoolbioethics.georgetown.edu/units/cases/unit3_3.html
 2. The underwater denotation called “Baker” of “Operation Crossroads,” summer 1946: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLCA9OxVA4Q&feature=related>
 3. Johnston, Barbara Rose, and Holly M. Barker. 2008. “Cautionary Tales from a Nuclear War Zone.” *Counterpunch* November 21/23, 2008.
<http://www.counterpunch.org/johnston11212008.html>
- Film clip: *Half Life: A Parable for the Nuclear Age* (VT 01452)

Week nine

11/24/09 Pacific Island states: sources of instability

TBA: readings on Fiji, Tonga, and/or Solomon Islands

Fourth quiz on readings and internet viewings

Study guide for final posted on Blackboard

11/26/09 Thanksgiving

Week ten

12/1/09 Review for the final

12/3/09 Instructor out of town; class is cancelled

Exam week

12/9/09 Sit-down final in 129 McKenzie 8:00-10:00 a.m.