

Anthropology 185: The Global Pacific

Fall Semester 2009
229 Natural History BLDG.
12:30 – 1:50 Tuesday and Thursday

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Course Description

This class explores Pacific islander lifeways. We take up issues of island ecologies and cultural practices; historical influences and contemporary directions of change; reactions against colonial legacies; development; gender issues; racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity; and diasporic islander communities. Attention is focused on dynamics of social life and transformations associated with globalization. Our lead-in to many topics is art.

We will work in conjunction with an ongoing exhibit at Spurlock Museum, The Transforming Arts of Papua New Guinea. We will have two visitors during the semester. Dr. Michael Mel is an internationally renowned performing artist from University of Goroka in the Eastern Highlands, Papua New Guinea; and Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris is Director of the Center for Human Origins and Diversity at University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Especially because of the unique opportunity to work with visitors and the museum exhibit this semester, the course emphasizes learning by dialogue. Weekly readings will be bases for discussions. Each class day students will start discussion with questions or issues from the readings or other materials. Information from outside class, such as video, internet, and personal experience are welcome. After student-led discussion we will take up related topics.

Course Requirements

In-class discussion	30 points
4 quizzes	36 points
Final Project	34 points

In-class discussion

Students are expected to attend class regularly, and participate actively in discussions of required readings. Students who have difficulties attending class and/or participating in discussions are expected to meet with the professor or TA to discuss alternatives for participation such as a written critical review of readings for each week. All students are encouraged to attend office hours and/or lunches to discuss course topics and individual progress throughout the semester. We will be holding lunch discussions of course material on Thursdays from 11:30-12:20 in the Illini Union food court throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to sign up on Tuesday for the Thursday lunch. Feel free to bring a lunch or purchase food at the Union.

Quizzes

See the schedule below for details. Quizzes are scheduled for weeks 3, 7, 9, and 13.

Final Project

The final project may be simply taking the final exam, but this requirement may also be satisfied by a group or individual performance with a Pacific theme to be scheduled in the Spurlock auditorium or in class, a group debate on an issue of controversy in the Pacific, a plan for an environmentally sound developmental project that heeds both Pacific and investor agendas, a plan for a tourism venture that likewise builds on local and outsider interests, a report on history through an artifact from museum collections, an 8-10 page paper on a Pacific topic inspired by readings or video or other information, a design for a monopoly or trivial pursuit game in Pacific terms, or design a museum exhibit, or develop another project designed by you in discussion with the professor or TA. **Each student must meet with the professor or TA by October 29 to have a final project approved or their final exam scheduled.** Students must hand in their final project or take the final exam on **Friday, December 11, 7:00-10:00 p.m.** In addition those who plan a performance/presentation should schedule this with the professor or teaching assistant for some time during weeks 14 and 15.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MONDAY EVENING OCTOBER 19 TO ATTEND A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY ARTIST AND SCHOLAR MICHAEL MEL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

The semester grade will be plus minus using standard increments at ten percent intervals:

97.6-100	= A+	77.6 – 79.99	= C+
92.6 – 97.5	= A	72.6 – 77.5	= C
90-92.5	= A-	70 – 72.5	= C-
87.6- 89.99	= B+	67.6 – 69.99	= D+
82.6 – 87.5	= B	62.6 – 67.5	= D
80 – 82.5	= B-	60 – 62.5	= D -
			< 60 = F

No prerequisites for this course. Course satisfies Gen Ed requirements in Social Science and NonWestern Cultures.

Required Texts and Supplements (available at the Illini Union Bookstore)

Baskow, Ira 2006 *The Meaning of Whitemen: Race and Modernity in the Orokaiva Cultural World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Fitzpatrick, Judith M., ed. 2001. *Endangered Peoples of Oceania: Struggles to Survive and Thrive*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Map: Oceania: Second Edition. 2009 University of Hawai'i Press.

*Additional Required Readings available on electronic course reserves at the library
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ipm/reserves.html>.

The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs. 21:1:2009 (available online through MUSE and the library website:
http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/journals/contemporary_pacific/)

Other resources listed by week. You may find You Tube has relevant materials at various points throughout the semester and the following site is a compendium of Pacific web sites. http://tepuna.natlib.govt.nz/web_directory

Week One (August 25 and 27 2009): Orientation and Pacific Cultural Geography

Introduction, *Endangered Peoples of Oceania* EPO, pages xi-xv
Review Reference Map. Also useful are the EPO map and CP map

Online: (1) Hotspot: Islands of the Pacific Michael Parfit National Geographic
203(3):106-126. 2003.

Recommended Sources: <http://www.oceansatlas.org/>
A glimpse at popular culture: The Ora mate kamate music video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7pMvn5_3Vw

Week Two (September 1 and 3): Colonial Influence, Modernity, and Migration

David Hanlon *Contemporary Pacific* CP 91-106 (also online)
Samoans in NZ in EPO 153-166
The Meaning of Whitemen WM Intro 1-25

Online: (2) Geographies of Memory and Identity in Oceania Janet Keller in
Intangible Heritage edited by D. Farichild Ruggles and Helaine Silverman
127-146. 2009.

Most of the video resources listed at the end of the schedule are relevant to the

topics of this week. Ask Professor Keller for more information.

Week Three (September 8 and 10): New Nations New Ways/Map Quiz

Lilomaiva-Doktor CP, pages 1-34 (online)

Cultural World, Post Colonial Situation Chapter 2 WM, pages 23-63

Online (3) After the 'Tidal Wave' : Bernard Narokobi and the Creation of a Melanesian Way Ton Otto in Narratives of Nation in the South Pacific
Ton Otto and Nick Thomas, editors. Pp. 33-64. 1997.

Recommended Sources : <http://samoanews.com/wednesday.01022008/WE.html>

Week Four (September 15 and 17): Global Populations Interacting: Race and Identity

Lightness of WM, Chapter 3, pages 65-94

Fiji Chapter 3 EP0 pages 33-44

Online: Shifting Social Categories in Fijian Kindergartens, Ethos 37.3 Anthro
Source or Interscience Online

*****Week Five (September 22-24 and September 25): Expectations and Perceptions of Self and Other**

Bodies of WM, Chapter 4 pages 95-145

Online: (4) The Glorious Pacific Way. Hau'ofa, Epeli *Tales of the Tikongs*.
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. 83-93. 1983.

September 25 Opening Night at the Spurlock Museum

Week Six (September 29 and October 1): Real and Imagined Intertwined

Foods of WM, Chapter 5, pages 145-209

Marshall Islanders in EPO, pages 61-75

Online: Tahiti Intertwined: Ancestral Land, Tourist Postcard, and Nuclear Test Site Miriam Kahn American Anthropologist 102(1):7-26. 2000. Anthro
Source or Interscience Online

Week Seven (October 6 and 8): Issues of Independence, Political Economy, and Development/ Quiz on Weeks 2-6

Whitemen Beyond Chapter 6 WM, pages 209-259

Anuta Islanders in EPO, pages 17-33

Palauans in EPO, pages 123-137

Spurlock Museum: History and socio-political dynamics through artifacts
Meet Tuesday October 6 at the Spurlock Museum

Week Eight (October 13 and 15): The Politics of Art, Cultural Centers and Museums

Katherine Higgins in CP pages 35-70 (online)

Tannese in EPO, pages 182-195

Online: (5) A Religious Experience?: the Polynesian Cultural Center pages 39-55 and The Revolt of the Represented: The Growth of Cultural Centers in the Pacific. In *Being Ourselves for You: The Global Display of Cultures* Nick Stanley. 86-114. 1998.

Possible in class Video Production by Michael Mel?
Also *Selo Selo, Land Divers of Melanesia* relevant. See Professor Keller for information.

****Week Nine (October 19 and 20): Transforming Global/Local Relations (note we meet Monday evening and Tuesday this week)/Quiz on Weeks 7-9**

Online: (6) Pasi Bilong Bilas Michael Mel. In *Contemporary Art in Papua New Guinea* edited by Susan Cochrane. 127-136. 1997.

The Individuation of Tradition in a Papua New Guinean Modernity Frederick Errington and Deborah Gewertz *American Anthropologist* 98:1:114-126. 1996. Anthro Source or Interscience Online

Dr. Mel's performance Monday evening October 19

Dr. Mel in class Tuesday October 20

Thursday in class exam

Week Ten (October 27 and 29): Fragile Ecologies within Global Surrounds

OK Tedi in EPO, pages 137-152

Nasioi in EPO, pages 107-123

Online: Social Relations and the Green Critique of Capitalism in Melanesia. Stuart Kirsch. *American Anthropologist* 110:3:288-299. 2008. AnthroSource or Interscience Online.

(7) Will Tuvalu Disappear Beneath the Sea? Allen, Leslie *Smithsonian*

Magazine (August) Washington D. C.: Smithsonian Institution pages 44-54. 2004.

Video: *Rising Waters*

Recommended Sources:

[Paradise Lost. Logging and the Environmental and Social Destruction of the Solomon Islands](http://www.japanfocus.org/-Andre-Vltchek/2770) by Andre Vltchek <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Andre-Vltchek/2770>

Week Eleven (November 3 and 5): Gender issues

Online: (8) Crowning the Nice Girl: Politics and Poetics of Banality Pp. 229-249
In *Crowning the Nice Girl* Christine Yano University of Hawaii Press. 2006.

(9) Women and Moko: Moving Between Times In *Mau Moko: The World of Maori Tattoo* Ngahua Te Awakotuku Uof Hawaii Press 2007. Pp. 80-105.

(10) Women-Nation-State in Vanuatu: Women as Signs and Subjects in the Discourses of Kastom, Modernity, and Christianity. Margaret Jolly In *Narratives of Nation in the South Pacific* Ton Otto and Nicholas Thomas, eds. Pp. 133-163. 1997.

Recommended Sources: the Haka:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kd0kDxP04eI>

French defiance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN0CmmdtZE>

****Week Twelve (November 10, 11, and 12): Heritage and Change in Global Context: What's Ours is Ours? What's Yours is Ours... (Note we meet Tuesday, Wednesday evening and Thursday this week)**

Dr. Lewis-Harris' Lecture November 11
Dr. Lewis-Harris in class November 12

Marquesas Islands in EPO, pages 75-93

Online: (11) Gender, Location, and Tradition: a Comparison of 2 PNG Contemporary Artists. In *Exploring World Art* edited by Venbrux, Rosi, and Welsch. Pp. 225-224. 2006.

Week Thirteen (November 17 and 19): Language in Pacific Settings Past, Present and Future/ Quiz on weeks 10-13

Online: 4 chapters. 3 in *Beyond Yellow English* edited by Angela Reyes and Adrienne Lo, and 1 in *Consequences of Contact: Language Ideologies and Sociocultural Transformations* edited by Miki Makihara and Bambi Schieffelin

- (13) Phonological and Cultural Innovations in the Speech of Samoans in Southern California Alessandro Duranti and Jennifer E. Reynolds BYE
- (14) “We Can Laugh at Ourselves”: Hawai’i Ethnic Humor, Local Identity and the Myth of Multiculturalism Roderick Labrador BYE
- (15) Who is Japanese in Hawai’i? Asuka Suzuki BYE
- (16) Linguistic Paths to Urban Self in Postcolonial Solomon Islands Christine Jourdan

Thanksgiving Break

Week Fourteen (December 1 and 3): Looking Ahead: Imagining The Pacific Way for the Future

Irakia in EPO, pages 45-61
 Micronesians in EPO, pages 93-105

Online: (12) Hawaiians Reclaiming their Culture Paul Theroux National Geographic 202(6):2-42. 2002.

Videos: *American Aloha, Papkōlea*

Week Fifteen (December 8): The Contemporary Pacific

Presentation of selected projects

Final Exam: 7:00 to 10:00 Friday December 11

Resources: Video: *Papkōlea* – Political and social Struggles of Native Hawaiians to Protect their Lands and Heritage (Keller)
The Land Has Eyes – A young Fijian woman’s struggles with her heritage and her future (Library)
Oltabed a Malt – A celebration of Heritage Arts: 9th Pacific Arts Festival (Keller)
Chief in Two Worlds – Samoan Immigrants in LA return to the islands to receive Chiefly titles (Keller)
Kilim Taem – The results of urban-rural migration and an economy in transition for the lives of young people in Vanuatu (Keller)
Whale Rider – A Maori girl transcends gendered identities and reckons with her spiritual heritage (Commercial)
Once Were Warriors – Contemporary struggles for urban Maori (Keller or Commercial)
SeloSelo – Cruise ships in Vanuatu (Keller)
Land Divers of Melanesia – Ritual performances with implications for tourism (Keller)

Possible Topics for Projects:

Nuclear Free Pacific: Why or Why Not?

Development and Poverty: Reimagining Possibilities

Diversity in the South Pacific: Understanding Alternative Perspectives

Market Economies and Reciprocity: Syncretic or Mutually Exclusive?

Is Global Warming a Hazard in the Pacific? Why or why Not?

Speaking Pacific Languages and/or Adopting World Languages?

“Post” Colonialism?

Hawaiian Sovereignty?

Pacific Theology and Religious Blends

Trivia – add to as we go along:

The smallest island with country status is Pitcairn in Polynesia, at just 1.75 S. miles/4,53 sq. km.

Chicago’s Midway Airport (originally built in 1923 as Chicago Air Park) was (re)named in 1949 to honor the 1942 WWII Battle of Midway Atoll.

Parts of Melanesia have the greatest linguistic diversity in the world while in other areas of the Pacific (Polynesia) closely related languages are shared among islands separated by vast ocean expanses.

The population of Illinois identifying as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander in 2007 was .1%. In the 2000 census 20 individuals in Champaign identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

The U.S. ranks as ninth most obese nation in the world after: Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, Samoa, Palau and Kuwait. The first seven countries are all Pacific island nations.

Belau supports the world’s only fresh water jelly fish in its inland lake.

Outside of Australia and New Zealand there is only one World Heritage Site in the Pacific Islands and that is Rennell the second largest upraised coral atoll in the world with the largest lake in the insular Pacific (Lake Tegano). (29 x 10 kilometers).

