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Anthropology 430 Human Adaptation to the Sea(WI)

UHM Outreach College Fall Extension 2005

"Throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

-- Mark Twain

CRN 1123 section 111

Kuykendall Hall KUY 301
Thursdays 5:30p.m. –9:40 p.m.

Instructor: Regina Woodrom Luna

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Course Description: This course is concerned with the anthropological investigation of the social and cultural characteristics and contemporary problems of a particular type of society/culture -- those in which subsistence depends on exploitation of the marine ecosystem. Because human beings evolved on land, marine environments pose special challenges for sustaining human life and culture. This course explores important milestones in the development of human societies and cultures that live from the sea, from the first maritime people through present times. With a focus on the relationship of societal structures to the marine environment of Hawaii and the Pacific region, we will travel through time to investigate how people first arrived to these islands, what adaptations they developed once they got here, how they managed their limited resources (using the culturally significant marine turtle as an example) and finally, what difficulties they now face and how their own traditional ecological knowledge may be used to overcome them.

The course is broken into five major parts: 1). ***Oceanography, Human Evolution, and The First Maritime People***, emphasizing the development of maritime cultural adaptations associated with seafaring and the colonization of Hawaii and the Pacific. This section includes a case study of seafaring and navigation -- The Puluwatan Seafarers and Navigators of Micronesia. 2). ***Maritime People, Cultures, and Societies***, emphasizes the social and cultural characteristics and special adaptations to fishing and maritime existence. This section includes a Marine Turtle case study of indigenous conservation practices. 3). ***Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Marine Resource Management***, emphasizes traditional ecological knowledge and utilization of marine ecosystems, early fisheries management, increasing competition, conflict and complexity and the persistent tendency to depletion. 4). ***Fisheries Management***, where we shall examine the theory of common-property resources and contributions that anthropologists can make toward developing fisheries-management policies. 5). ***Methods and Career possibilities***, emphasizing anthropological methods for acquiring Indigenous/Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This phase of the course concludes with an examination of how maritime and fisheries anthropology is needed to fulfill a vital role in marine science and marine resource conservation and management.

Course Objectives:

- Encourage learning that comes from the cultural perspectives, values, knowledge and world views of peoples indigenous to Hawai'i and the Pacific
- Promote understanding of the histories, cultures, and beliefs, as well as the societal, economic, and technological processes of Hawai'i and the Pacific
- Foster multi-cultural respect and understanding
- Examine how anthropologists investigate maritime cultures
- Gain knowledge of how anthropologists apply knowledge to real world issues and problems
- Discuss contemporary marine conservation issues within the study of maritime cultural themes
- Consider the methods, and the interdisciplinary use, of maritime and fisheries anthropology in the marine sciences and marine conservation and management

Texts:

McGoodwin, James R. 1990. *Crisis in the World's Fisheries: People, Problems and Policies*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. ISBN: 0804717907 [UHM Call Number SH328 .M39 1990](#)

Gladwin, Thomas. 1970. *East is a Big Bird: Navigation and Logic on Puluwat Atoll*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. ISBN 0674224264 & 0674224256. This book is out of print so I have placed it, by chapter, on the course website.

GRADING

Grades will be based on a point system as follows:

A = 270-300

B = 240-269

C = 210-239

D = 180-209

Grades will reflect student performance in the following areas:

Class Attendance and Participation (10 points x 10 classes) 100 points

Oral Presentations as Discussion Facilitators (each student MUST do one) 50 points

Written Reports (10 points x 10 reports) 100 points

Term Paper (5 pts topic, 10 pts proposal, 10 pts draft, 25 pts final) 50 points

ALL written work must be typed, proofread, and completed in a manner appropriate to a college level course or it will be returned without credit.

NO late work will be accepted without a note from your doctor stating you were unable to complete your work on time due to a medical reason

We will follow the policies on academic honesty of the University of Hawaii as detailed in the Catalog. **Any cheating or incidents of plagiarism will result failing the course and will be reported to the appropriate administrative authority for action.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Section 1: Oceanography, Human Evolution, and The First Maritime People

Week One:

Sept 15th(Th):

5:30 Part 1 **Introduction to the course and your teacher** (me!), Housekeeping –syllabus, etc.
Small Group Interviews and Introductions
Student Expectations

Guest Speaker: Ben Finney, PhD. First migrations, Polynesian voyaging, cultural revival. 1997 Regent's Medal for excellence in research, University of Hawai'i; 1995 French University of the Pacific Medal for contributions to the revival of traditional voyaging and the study of Polynesian culture and society. French University of the Pacific, Tahiti, French Polynesia and Noumea, New Caledonia; 1994 Royal Institute of Navigation Bronze Medal for the outstanding paper ("Rediscovering Polynesian Navigation through Experimental Voyaging") in vol. 46 (1993) of the Journal of Navigation.

Video: *Savage Seas* (excerpts) --Oceans cover more than 70 percent of our planet and contain 90 percent of life on earth, yet they remain the most treacherous and alien part of our environment. Through unparalleled underwater footage, up-to-date science and harrowing first-person accounts, *Savage Seas* probes the watery phenomena that hold both terror and allure.

Break

7:00 Part 2 **Human physical and cultural evolution. The first maritime people.**

Readings due:

McGoodwin, Chapter 3, "Unregulated Fisheries," pp. 49—64.

Irwin (1992), Chapter 1, An Introduction to the Pacific and the Theory of its Settlement in

Break

8:30 Part 3

Video: *Baraka* (104 min.) directed and photographed by Ron Fricke. Filmed in 24 countries on six continents, this film uses a collage of images and sound to portray the relationship between humans and nature.

Week Two: Seafaring and Navigation, The Pacific

Sept. 22nd(Th): ★ **Due Today:** Term Paper Topic for approval

5:30 Part 1 **Early seafarers of the Pacific.**

Video: *The Navigators: pathfinders of the Pacific* (60 min.). Documentary on the ancient navigational practices of early Pacific seafarers. Examines the culture of Satawal, a tiny island in Micronesia's central Caroline Islands where these ancient navigational practices are still maintained.

Break

7:00 Part 2 **The Puluwatan Seafarers and Navigators of Micronesia.**

Readings due:

Gladwin, chapter 1, "A Sail in the Sun," pp. 1-32.

Gladwin, chapter 2, "The Way of the Voyager," pp. 33-64.

Gladwin, chapter 3, "Canoes," pp. 65-124.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Video: *Spirits of the voyage* (88 min.) A thought-provoking documentary about the fragile status of island navigator arts and skills in the face of cultural adaptations to modern influences.

Week Three: Seafaring and Navigation, The Pacific (continued) (Start early on this weeks readings, there are 146 pages to read)

Sep. 29th(Th):

5:30 Part 1

Video: *Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey*. (60 min) Presents a seafaring odyssey with a group of Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, as they build traditional sailing canoes, learn to travel long distances using celestial navigation, and embark on a 2,000-mile voyage from the Marquesas Islands to Hawai'i.

Break

7:00 Part 2 **The Puluwatans (concluded).**

Readings due:

Gladwin, chapter 4, "The Navigators," pp. 125-143.

Gladwin, chapter 5, "Navigation under the Big Bird," pp. 144-213.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Video: *Hawaiians*. (1987) (60 min.) A history of Hawai'i's native people. Pt. I. "The Time of Ao": chanters recount the mystical adventure of Polynesians discovering a new land; actors portray initial landing and village life until mid-1970's.

Section 2: Maritime People, Cultures, And Societies

Week Four: Maritime Societies

Oct. 6th(Th): ★ **Due Today:** Term Paper Outline with References

5:30 Part 1

Video: *The Precarious balance: living with the sea, Woleai and Italik atolls, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia*. (10 min.) Shows the way of life of the people of Woleai and Italik atolls, Yap, in regard to their relationship to the sea around them. Describes various techniques of fishing; the destruction wrought by tropical storms, typhoons and tidal waves; the traditional use of magicians to control the forces of nature; and the use of outrigger canoes as a means of travel and communication.

Video: *Pacific island* (18 min.) The activities of the natives of Likiep, an atoll in the Marshall Islands group, this film shows them practicing the art of navigation, building a boat, fishing, basket-weaving, caring for their thatched homes, attending school and church, and participating in a birthday feast.

Video: *Araha ana room* (14 min.). Shows Solomon Islands men going out in canoes and diving for romo shells, used for food and to make shell money. The shells are presented to the chief then steamed over hot coals by women and eaten by the men who gathered the shells.

Video: *Fishing* (14 min.) Natives are filmed practicing their own methods of fishing the waters around Nuguria. Taking fronds from coconut trees, they weave the branches together into a long sieve that is used in shallow water to gather swarms of tiny fish that are used as bait. The film is nonnarrated.

Break

7:00 Part 2 **General Characteristics of Fishing Communities**

Readings due:

Schug (1995) The marine realm and the Papua New Guinean inhabitants of the Torres Strait.

Bradford (1999) *Hawaiian traditions: Legend of Ku? ula, it's place in Hawaiian history*.

Smith (1977) Introduction in M. E. Smith, ed. *Those Who Live from the Sea*.

Passfield (1997) Construction of traditional outrigger fishing canoes in Tuvalu.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Video: *In search of the shark worshippers* (24 min.) Describes various instances of shark attacks, while the people on one of the Fiji Islands are immune from shark attack through the practice of an ancient ritual.

Video: *Kai = The sea ; Na waiwai Hawai? i = Treasured values of Hawai? i*. (40 min.) The vast resources of the Pacific Ocean as they relate to Hawai'i are discussed in this program. Traditional fishing methods, limu gathering, and conservation practices of the early Hawaiians are seen.

Week Five: Maritime People

Oct. 13th(Th):

5:30 Part 1

Video: *The Eye of the octopus* (23 min.)

A true story of a 13 year old New Zealand boy who travels to the remote Pacific island of Kiribas to learn the islanders' ways. Shipwrecked three years previously for 16 days with one of the island's men, the boy, with his host's son, now learns the island methods of sailing, fishing, snorkeling, survival techniques, and the traditional way to kill an octopus.

Video: *Today's Maka`a inana a fisherman and farmer* (60 min.) 1st program: In this program we visit two of today's maka`a inana. Although some of the methods of fishing and farming have changed over the years, the spirit that motivated the early Hawaiians is still alive today. 2nd program: This program depicts Kawainui Marsh in the early days of Hawaii through a mural project developed by Ipo and Ku`u, nani Nihipali. 3rd program: In this program we see through the eyes of farmers, fishermen, futurists who comment on the value of preserving our precious resources for the future. They merge traditional with futuristic ideas advocating conservation and preservation, and a sense of self-sufficiency.

Break

7:00 Part 2 **Introduction To Fishing People Today**

Readings due:

McGoodwin, "Introduction," pp. 1-4.

McGoodwin, Chapter 1, "Fishers Today: Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea," pp. 7-20.

Fishers As Members Of Coastal Communities

McGoodwin, pp. 21-28 in Chapter 2, "The Cultures of Fishing Peoples".

Risk and Danger in Ocean Fishing

McGoodwin, Chapter 2, "The Cultures of Fishing Peoples," pp. 29-32.

Characteristics Of Fishing People, Cultures, And Societies

McGoodwin, Chapter 2, "The Cultures of Fishing Peoples," pp. 33-39.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Video: *Hawaiians and the sea* (1986) (10 min.) 1st program. Shows the Hawaiian tradition of how to approach the sea, such as praying before entering the sea; observation of currents; how to clean fish; and how to eat sea urchins and opihi.

Video: *Moki* (60 min.) Educational programme on moki, investigating feeding grounds, fishing, and traditional Maori stories.

Week Six: Maritime Cultures

Oct. 20th(Th): ★ **Due Today:** Term Paper First Draft

5:30 Part 1

Video: *The Kauai Historical Society presents Fishponds in Hawaii with Dr. William "Pila" Kikuchi.* (76 min.)

Break

7:00 Part 2, section 1

Readings due:

Johannes(2002)Did indigenous conservation ethics exist?

8:00 Part 2, section 2 **A Case Study of conscious conservation practices**

Readings due:

Frazier (2005)Traditional And Cultural Use Of Marine Turtles.

Woodrom Luna (2003b) Traditional Food Prohibitions (*tapu*) regarding Marine Turtle among Pacific Islanders.

Davidson (2001)Turtle Culture.

Frazier(2004a)Marine Turtles and Ancient Peoples.

Frazier (2002)Marine turtles of the Past: A Vision for the Future?

Kinan and Drexel (2005) Turtle Conservation & Fisheries Development in The Pacific Islands

Break

9:00 Part 3

Video: *The reef: our heritage, our future.* (15 min.) Describes traditional fishing techniques. Examines the reasons why Nauru's marine resources and reefs are deteriorating and what can be done to stop this problem.

Video: *Red Turtle Rising* (30min). A documentary film that weaves together the legend of the ancient Hawaiian turtle goddess Kauila with the real life saga of the mysterious and critically endangered hawksbill turtle.

Section 3: Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Marine Resource Management

Week Seven:

Oct. 27th(Th):

5:30 Part 1 **Fishers' Ecological Knowledge And Utilization Of Marine Ecosystems**

Readings due:

McGoodwin, Chapter 2, "The Cultures of Fishing Peoples," pp. 39-42.

McGoodwin, pp. 51-64 in chapter 3, "Unregulated Fisheries"

Bradley(1998)'How can a Whitefella know it all?' Indigenous Science–Western Science and Marine Turtles

Mulrennan (2002) Indigenous Participation in Fisheries Management in Torres Strait, Northern Australia.

Break

7:00 Part 2

Video: *The cruise of the Magi* (19 min.)The Magi people of southeast Papua have always been traders, once in canoes, now in their own motor vessel, the "Magi," which is run by a cooperative. Shows how the villages have developed their fishing, trading and inter-island travel.

Video: *The Turtle people* (26 min.) A case study of the ecological and cultural changes that result from so-called development. Shows the Miskito Indians of eastern Nicaragua who have depended on the sea turtle for food in the past and are now hunting the turtles to sell for cash.

Video: *Shark callers of Kontu* (54 min.) For centuries, the villagers of Kontu, in Papua New Guinea, have gone to sea in outrigger canoes to call, trap, and kill sharks by hand. Now, after a hundred years of colonization and missionary activity, only a few men still understand the magic rituals of shark calling. The people of Kontu associate the sharks with spiritual forces and believe men can control these spiritual forces to their own advantage, or, through correct ritual, protect themselves from harm if they come in contact with the sharks. Now

the base of their culture has shifted. When the men who now practice shark calling die, this unique and dangerous practice will probably die with them. Caught up in cultural changes, the disappearance of shark callers in the ritual slaying of sharks has a deep significance for this community, since these people believe that sharks contain the spirits of their ancestors. **Video:** *The Macuata gillnet ban: how a fishing community benefited.* (17 min.) Shows how a coastal fishing community in Fiji, with help from government and regional experts, decided to turn a distressed fishery into one that has created work and wealth. After gillnetting was banned fish stocks recovered and steps were taken to ensure that the stocks would remain sustainable.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Small-Scale Vs. Large-Scale Industrialized Fishing

Readings due:

McGoodwin, Chapter 2, "The Cultures of Fishing Peoples," pp. 42-46.

Smaalders and Kinch (2003) *Canoes, subsistence and conservation in the Louisiade Archipelago of Papua New Guinea.*

Increasing Competition, Conflict, And Complexity

McGoodwin, pp. 49 -50 in chapter 3, "Unregulated Fisheries."

Fishery Depletions In The Modern Era

Safina (1995) *The world's imperiled fish*

Walton (2003) "Study: Only 10 Percent of Big Ocean Fish Remain"

Section 4: Fisheries Management Problems And Theories, How Anthropologists Contribute

Week Eight: (49 pages to read)

Nov. 3rd(Th): ★ **Due Today:** Term Paper Final Draft

5:30 Part 1 **The mis-development of contemporary fisheries management.**

Readings due:

McGoodwin, pp. 65-73 in chapter 4, "Developmental Problems in..."

Frazier (1997) *Sustainable development: modern elixir or sack dress?*

Economists, scientists, managers, and bureaucrats.

McGoodwin, pp. 73-88 in chapter 4, "Developmental Problems in..."

Caillaud et al. (2004) *Tabus or not taboos? How to use traditional environmental knowledge to support sustainable development of marine resources in Melanesia.*

Break

7:00 Part 2

Video: *Whose rights are right?: Maori customary fishing rights.* (53 min.) Overview of the nature and extent of Maori customary fishing rights from pre-colonial to contemporary times. Examines how these rights were upheld in the past and the methods by which they are exercised today. Customary harvesters talk about their rights and obligations in relation to managing their fisheries and habits.

Video: *The Polynesians of Kapingamarangi* (53 min.) Shows the inhabitants of a tiny atoll engaged in various activities such as fishing, canoe making, and making fish traps.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Readings due:

Johannes (1994) *Co-operative fisheries management: Major changes in training required for government fisheries personnel.*

Preston (1992) *The Workshop 'People, Society and Pacific Islands Fisheries Development and Management'*

- Lieber (1994) Traditional fishing on a Polynesian atoll.
 Sabetian (2002) The importance of ethnographic knowledge to fishery research design and management in the South Pacific: A case study from Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands.
 Woodrom Luna (2003) The Merging of Archaeological Evidence and Marine Turtle Ecology: A case study approach to the importance of including archaeological data in marine science.

Week Nine:

Nov. 10th(Th):

5:30 Part 1

Video: *Fish is our Life*. (29 min.) Video of the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo.

Video: *Fishing in the sea of greed* (45 min.) Documents the response of traditional fishing communities to the threat of displacement by overfishing and pollution resulting from industrial fishing practices such as use of gigantic factory ships.

Break

7:00 Part 2 **The “tragedy of the commons.” Hardin’s famous model—right and wrong. Human nature and use of natural resources.**

Readings due:

McGoodwin, chapter 5, pp. 89-96 “The Tragicomedy of the Commons”.

Frazier (2004b) Marine turtles: Whose property? Whose rights? From the Panel – Marine Turtles: A case study of ‘Common Property’ from the ‘Global Commons’.

Aswani(1997) Troubled water in South-western New Georgia, Solomon Islands: is codification of the commons a viable avenue for resource use regularisation?

Break

8:30 Part 3

Whaling and what is Indigenous?

Video: *The Whale hunters of Lamalera* (52 min.) Looks at the Lamaholot people living in the village of Lamalera on an island in Indonesia, who hunt sperm whale from May to October. Their way of life is now being threatened by the scarcity of their prey resulting in migration from the island of people seeking work elsewhere.

Section 5: Methods And Career Possibilities In Maritime And Fisheries Anthropology

Week Ten: Where do we go from here?

Nov. 17th(Th):

5:30 Part 1

Guest Speaker: Irene Kinan, Sea Turtle Coordinator, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council; -- on their new anthropologist position.

Break

7:00 Part 2

Methods for acquiring Indigenous Knowledge

Smith (1993) Strategies for acquiring traditional marine Knowledge.

Calamia(1999) A methodology for incorporating traditional ecological knowledge with geographic information systems for marine resource management in the Pacific.

Greene (1999) Community culture invention –instant self anthropology using Community Quality Cabarets.

The Future Of Marine Science, Marine Education, and Anthropology

Ready(2004) Factoring Humans into the Environmental Picture:

Johannes (2001)The need for a centre for the study of indigenous fishers’ knowledge. *SPC*

Woodrom Luna(2001) Woodrom Luna, R. 2001. What is Public Anthropology? A case study example. *Journal of Public Anthropology: The Graduate Journal #2001b*.

Break

8:30 Part 3

Video: *Anthropologists at work: careers making a difference* (36 min.) A glimpse of the variety of roles anthropologists play in modern society.