SYLLABUS

I. Texts:
   
   

II. Course Description:

   The South Pacific has a certain romantic appeal in popular imagination: swaying palm trees, mild tropical breezes, unspoiled, uninhibited people. Is this true? What are the people of this region really like? How do they feel about these popular images of themselves? What can we learn about human nature by studying the cultures of the South Pacific?

   This class uses information about the peoples and cultures of the South Pacific as a vehicle for exploring basic anthropological ideas and concepts. In examining the customs of traditional Pacific peoples, we will probe the ranges of human diversity. By learning about Pacific patterns of courtship and marriage, family organization, political and economic systems, warfare, rituals, etc., and by comparing these with very different American social patterns, we will increase our understanding of what it means to be human. Students in this class will also gain a greater appreciation of anthropology as a profession as they read firsthand the "field experiences" of several anthropologists.

   The course examines the traditional and contemporary cultures of the three major areas of the Pacific: Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. It includes a geographical and historical introduction to the Pacific as well as an examination of the current social and political status of the region. Anthropological films and visual presentations will supplement lectures. A class website contains more information: go to http://courseweb.pitt.edu. Anthropology 0780 (Introduction to Cultural Anthropology) or consent of the instructor is a prerequisite for the course.

III. Course Requirements:

   Grading is based upon two hour exams (each worth 25%), a final exam (worth 25%) and a recitation grade (worth 25%).

   A. **First Exam**: February 14. The first part of the course is designed to introduce the student to the overall geography and contemporary political organization of the Pacific basin, as well as to survey briefly the prehistory, history, and peoples and cultures of the region. In addition, we will be focusing on the seafaring Polynesian cultures in this section of the course. The exam covers the Chambers=*Unity of Heart*, and all class materials to date.
B. Second Exam: March 28. The second part of the course concentrates on the cultures of Melanesia. We will be comparing the non-Austronesian speaking peoples of the interior with the coastal dwelling Austronesian speakers. The Abelam, a New Guinea tribal culture studied by Dr. Scaglion, will also be described. The exam covers all of Hayano's *Road Through the Rain Forest*, and includes class materials since the first exam.

C. Final Exam: April 27. The final part of the course describes the peoples of Australia and Micronesia. We will be comparing these culture areas to those examined in earlier sections of the course. We will also be examining contemporary social and political issues in the Pacific. The exam will cover all of Ward's *Nest in the Wind*, and all class materials since the second exam. Some of the questions will integrate these materials with major topics and issues discussed throughout the course. For example, you might be asked to consider the implications of the different cultural heritages of Polynesians, Melanesians and Micronesians for their participation in the contemporary global world.

D. Recitation Grade: Evaluation in recitation sessions will be determined by the recitation instructors and will be explained by them. Attendance, announced quizzes and take-home assignments are usually the bases for recitation grades. Recitation instructors may also assign additional readings. Recitation is an important component of the course, and students are expected to attend.

IV. Office Hours

All instructors will have formal office hours which we will announce. If you wish to see us outside our office hours, we can usually arrange a mutually satisfactory time. Dr. Scaglion has two offices. One is located in the main office complex of Anthropology (3302 Posvar Hall): just ask for him there. The other office is 3116 Posvar Hall. His e-mail address (the best way to contact him) is scaglion@pitt.edu; his phone number is 412-648-7512 (8-7512 if you are calling from most campus phones). Recitation instructors have offices at 3115-3125 Posvar Hall. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will be announced.

V. Tentative Schedule

January 5 Introduction to the Course
January 10 Representations of Pacific Islanders in popular culture
January 12 Political geography and culture areas
January 17 Political geography and culture areas
January 19 Introduction to traditional Polynesian culture
Film: *Fa'a Samoa* (The Samoans, a Polynesian society) (F707)
January 24 Geology and environment
January 26 Prehistory and peopling of the Pacific
January 31 The Seafaring era
Video: *The Navigators* (V1980)
February 2 The Polynesian culture area

February 7 The Mead-Freeman Debate

February 9 Derek Freeman's critique of Mead's Samoan research
   Video: Margaret Mead and Samoa (V1352)

February 14 FIRST HOUR EXAM

February 16 New Guinea: Island of Cultural Diversity

February 21 European intrusion in Melanesia
   Video: First Contact (New Guinea Highlands Society) (not in Pitt collection)

February 23 The New Guinea Highlands

February 28 Exchange and Achieved Status
   Video: Ongka's Big Moka (The Melpa, a Melanesian Highlands Society) (V165)

March 2 The New Guinea Lowlands

March 5-12 SPRING RECESS - NO CLASS

March 14 A non-Austronesian Lowlands tribe: The Abelam

March 16 An Austronesian Coastal Society: Marshall Lagoon

March 21 Economics, Ritual Process and Functionalism in Melanesian Society

March 23 The Melanesian Culture Area
   Film: Land Divers of Melanesia (Pentecost, Island Melanesia) (F288)

March 28 SECOND HOUR EXAM

March 30 Australia

April 4 Return to Paradise? Contemporary Images of the Pacific
   Video: Lamotrek: Heritage of an Island (a Micronesian Atoll society) (V214)

April 6 The Micronesian Culture Area in comparative perspective

April 11 Dependency or Cooperation? Cultures of Micronesia

April 13 Contemporary issues
   Video: Lieweila (Carolinians in the Northern Marianas today) (V236)

April 18 Contemporary Social and Political Problems
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>(THURSDAY) FINAL EXAM (8:00-9:30 A.M.)</td>
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