Anthropology 350: Pacific Islands Cultures

Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:45
Kuykendall 209

Class website is on the WebCT server: http://webct.hawaii.edu/
email list: anthro350-l@hawaii.edu

Objectives

Anyone living in Hawai‘i ought to become literate with regard to the cultures and histories of Pacific Island societies. Each person living here is part of an ongoing story of movement, settlement, and adaptation to island environments that has produced remarkable histories of cultural accomplishment and political struggle. Although relatively small in population, the Pacific Islands span one-third of the globe, encompass about one fourth of the world’s languages, and include some of its most unique ecological zones. The Pacific has been an object of European interest and fantasy since the earliest days of exploration, and continues to generate all kinds of exotic images, whether of paradise, of “disappearing” cultures, or threatened ecologies. In this course we will be concerned both with the experience of indigenous communities and with representations of the Pacific generated inside and outside the region.

Pacific histories of travel begin with the far-flung voyages of Polynesian navigators and are followed by waves of European explorers, missionaries, and colonizers. These movements have produced dramatic, and often tragic, stories of cultural encounter and transformation. The experience of Pacific communities, past and present, has much to teach us about living in communities that contend with global flows of people, culture, and capital. Today island travelers continue to move through national capitals and metropolitan centers from Honolulu to Los Angeles and Auckland, fashioning new forms and identities that extend the boundaries of the Pacific.

At the end of this course, students should have acquired broader knowledge of
1. Geographic, cultural, and political ‘mapping’ of Oceania
2. Ways in which Pacific Islanders are represented in global media
3. Social dynamics of indigenous Pacific communities, rural and metropolitan
4. Histories of cultural encounter, innovation, and struggle in the island region
5. Pressures of globalization & responses of Pacific communities today
Requirements
Active student participation through contributions to class discussion is important (5%). The remaining 95% of a student’s grade will consist of a mid-term exam (20%), film essays (25%), a tourism project (10 pages) (25%) and a final exam (25%). An optional book review essay (8-10 pages) may be submitted for up to 10% extra credit.

Required Readings: Books
- Weiner, Annette, The Trobriand Islanders of Papua New Guinea
- Hau'ofa, Epeli, Tales of the Tikongs
- Small, Cathy A., Voyages: From Tongan Villages to American Suburbs

Required Readings: Reading packet
- Assigned articles are available as a spiral bound reader, from Campus Copy for $17.44, 2465 Campus Rd #104 (941-1098). These readings are also available on the course website and on reserve at Sinclair Library.

Maps
- A Pacific map will be handed out in class. This map and others are available online at http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/PacificMaps.htm

Optional Book
- Smith, Michael French, Village on the Edge

Week by week outline:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Aug 22: Introduction
   no reading assigned

2. Aug 24: Envisioning the Pacific
   reading: Hau’ofa, “Our Sea of Islands” (2-16)
   film: Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey

3. Aug 29: Migration and Settlement: Archeological and Linguistic Views
   reading: Bellwood, “Settlement” and Tryon, “Language” (53-67)

4. Aug 31: Voyaging & Navigating the Pacific
II. INDIGENOUS WORLDS

5. Sept 5: The Famous Trobriand Islands
reading: Weiner, “Introduction” (1-15) and Ch 1 (17-31)
film: The Trobriand Islanders

6. Sept 7: Making Identities: Ancestors and Descent
reading: Weiner, Ch 2 “Death …” (33-50); Ch 3 “Fathers and Matrilineality” (51-64)

7. Sept 12: Marriage and Exchange
reading: Weiner Ch 4 “Youth and sexuality” (65-79); Ch 5 “Marriage …” (81-96)
film: Trobriand Cricket

8. Sept 14: Politics: Chiefs, Feasts, and Power
reading: Weiner Ch 6, “Chiefs …” (97-110); Ch 7 “Men Working for Women” (111-123)

reading: Weiner Ch 8, “… Matrilineality” (125-138); Ch 9, “Kula …” (139-157)
film: Kula: Ring of Power

10. Sept 21: REVIEW SESSION
reading: Weiner Ch 10, “Conclusion” (159-167)

III. COLONIZATION & MILITARIZATION

11. Sept 26: MIDTERM EXAM

12. Sept 28: Colonization and Christianity
reading: White, “Crisis and Christianity” (81-102)
film: The Transformed Isles

13. Oct 3: The Pacific War
reading: Lindstrom & White, “War Stories” (3-40)
film: Angels of War

14. Oct 5: Nuclear Pacific
reading: Alcalay, “Maelstrom in the Marshall Islands” (25-36)
guest facilitator: TBA
film: Radio Bikini
IV. “DEVELOPMENT” AND GLOBALIZATION

reading: Hau’ofa, Tales of the Tikongs, 1-56
guest speaker: TBA

reading: Hau’ofa, Tales of the Tikongs, 57-93

17. Oct 17: Crises of Globalization: Forestry and the Land (Solomon Islands)
reading: Macintyre and Foale, “Global Imperatives and Local Desires” (149-150, 160-64)
Roughan, Review of Since the Company Came (612-613)
film: Since the Company Came

Spriggs, “Chronology of a Crisis” (263-265)
guest speaker: Eugene Ogan, Professor of Anthropology, Univ of Minnesota (retired)

V. POLITICS OF NATION-MAKING

reading: Kaplan, “Fiji’s Coups” (72-85)
film: Race for Rights

reading: White, “Natives and Nations” (139-166)
guest speaker: Dr. Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, East-West Center
film: For Guns and Money (excerpts)

21. Oct 31: Nation & Gender: Hawai‘i
reading: Tengan, “(En)Gendering Colonialism” (239-256)
guest speaker: Prof. Ty Kawika Tengan, UH Depts. of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies

VI. TOURISM: IMAGINING OCEANIA

22. Nov 2: Tourism and the Politics of Culture
reading: Helu-Thaman, “Beyond Hula, Hotels and Handicrafts” (104-111)
Trask, “Lovely Hula Hands” (179-196)
Film: Rap’s Hawai‘i, excerpt
website: Historic Waikiki: http://www.downwindproductions.com/

23. Nov 7: NO CLASS (ELECTION DAY) [work on tourism projects]
24. Nov 9: Tourism: Consuming Others
reading: Jolly, “Kastom as Commodity” (131-146)
film: Cannibal Tours

25. Nov 14: In-class discussion of projects [TURN IN PROJECT DRAFT/OUTLINE]
reading: O’Rourke, “On the Making of Cannibal Tours” (1-9)

26. Nov 16: [TOURISM PROJECT DUE]
no assigned reading

VI. GLOBAL PACIFIC

27. Nov 21: Migration and Diaspora
reading: Small, 3-49

28. Nov 23: NO CLASS (HOLIDAY, THANKSGIVING)

29. Nov 28: Travel Stories
reading: Small, 51-100
film: “Brown Sugar,” Tala Pasifika

30. Nov 30: Roots & Routes
reading: Small, 101-158

31. Dec 5: (Re)Producing Tradition in the Transnational Pacific
reading: Small, 159-181
film: Sacred Vessels

32. Dec 7: [REVIEW SESSION]
reading: Small 183-205

48. Dec 12: 12 noon – 2 pm FINAL EXAM [NOTE start time]
Reading List


Macintyre, Martha and Simone Foale, “Global Imperatives and Local Desires: Competing Economic and Environmental Interests in Melanesian Communities.” in Lockwood, ed. *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. Pp. 149-164


**Filmography**


*Cannibal Tours* (1987) by Dennis O'Rourke. A film by Dennis O'Rourke. Los Angeles, California: Direct Cinema Ltd. (77 minutes).


*Sacred Vessels: navigating tradition and identity in Micronesia* (1998) GMF, Guam : Moving Islands Production. (28 min.)


*The Transformed Isle: Barbarism to Christianity* (1920)
Silent with captions. [UHM AV/C VIDEOTAPE 1940] (30 min)

*Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey* (1999) Maiden Voyage Productions (60 minutes)