

UBC Okanagan
Winter 2009 Term 2: TR 0800-0930, Rm A386
ANTH 351 ETHNOGRAPHY OF MELANESIA:
Papua New Guinea

Dr. Naomi McPherson: Arts274B

Office Hours: T1300-1430; or Appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using selected ethnographies, journal articles, ethnographic film, archival materials, and the instructor's fieldwork experiences, the primary focus of this course is the peoples and cultures of Papua New Guinea from first contact with Europeans to the present. In addition to anthropological concerns with such things as social, economic and political organization, religion and belief systems, and gender relations, emphasis throughout will be on the experiences and responses of the people of Papua New Guinea to the processes of globalization at the local level, including sociocultural change wrought by colonialism, missionization, modernization, and postmodernity. We will explore these topics within the context of three ethnographies (see below) while at the same time reading and thinking critically about the ethnographic process, ethnographic writing, and the role of anthropology in a changing world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To introduce students to the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG), their ways of life, and the problems and solutions they live today;
- 2) To ensure students understand the history of European contact in the Pacific and especially in PNG in order to acquire an appreciation for contemporary postcolonial issues faced by Papua New Guineans in today's "global village;"
- 3) To achieve familiarity with key anthropological concepts and ideas (many of which originated in Pacific ethnography), past and present as depicted in the ethnographic literature on PNG;
- 4) To understand the ethnographic process and the writing of ethnographies;
- 5) To ensure students are familiar with anthropological literature, basic data sources, and how to assess critically and present such information; and, finally,
- 6) To develop analytical and communication skills through presentation of anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research in oral and/or written form.

REQUIRED Readings: At the University Bookstore.

Barker, John

2008 *Ancestral Lines: the Miasin of Papua New Guinea and the Fate of the Rainforest.*
Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

Gewertz, Deborah and Frederick Errington.

2009 *Cheap Meat: Flap Food Nations in the Pacific Islands.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Wardlow, Holly

2006 *Wayward Women: Sexuality and Agency in a New Guinea Society.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

NOTE: The first day of classes is *the first day of classes*. Plan to attend the entire class period.

**FOR YOUR HEALTH AND MINE,
MY CLASSROOM AND MY OFFICE ARE DESIGNATED SCENT-FREE
ENVIRONMENTS.**

Please help us to keep the Arts Building a SCENT FREE environment. Many faculty, staff and students, including me, have allergic reactions to chemical ingredients that scent perfumes, laundry and face soaps, dryer sheets, shampoos, skin creams, after shave lotions and the like. In the interests of everyone's health and comfort please refrain from wearing perfumed substances of any sort while on campus. Many 'scent free' or 'fragrance free' products are available at drug stores, supermarkets and health food stores.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

The format of this course combines lectures, films and/or slides and discussions. Note that ethnographic films are an integral part of this course; you are expected to attend and participate in discussion of all films. Discussion will be of prime importance and you are expected to contribute to the intellectual life of the class. Successful discussions depend upon everyone doing the assigned readings and participating in the discussion by posing questions and contributing thoughts and queries on what is read and said. It is frustrating for me and for students in the class when classes fall flat because only a few people have done the required reading, or some have done the "wrong" readings (no excuse for that, see schedule below!). You are expected (1) to attend every class and to complete the scheduled required reading prior to class; (2) to attend the films and to participate in the discussion following viewing; and (3) to complete your assignments and submit them for grading on time.

ASSESSMENT*

Mid-Term Exam	25%
Research Paper	35%
Final exam	<u>40%</u>
* See UBCO Calendar for grading policies	100%

DATE

Feb 11, in Class
March 25, in class
TBA

ASSESSMENT NOTES:

1. My goal always is to encourage all students to adopt an active approach to knowledge. A good education, like everything else in life, is not handed to you on a platter; you cannot remain passive and excel in anything. Knowledge is not purchased at the registrar's office with your tuition fees or at the bookstore in a course reading packet or textbook. Acquiring knowledge is a personal achievement that requires that *you* struggle with the material, read assiduously, and practice engaged writing.
2. I subscribe a pedagogy that values reading and writing across the curriculum. Consequently, although this is an Anthropology course, it is being taught in English and I expect to receive written assignments that demonstrate your comprehension of the material and reflect a shared, nonsexist and nonracist language. Grammar, punctuation, spelling, logic, presentation, organization, sophistication and cogency of argument, do count. In short, my grading policy reflects not only the content of your knowledge but also the competence with which you express and communicate the content of your knowledge.

3. All written material submitted for grading in this course must follow the *Style Guide for Papers in Anthropology* on the CCGS Anthropology website. <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/ccgs/welcome.html> You will lose points on your assignments if you fail to follow this format.
4. All students are hereby referred to the current UBCO Calendar for policies pertaining to academic integrity and issues such as cheating and plagiarism. I will implement and enforce these policies in every instance of academic misconduct and/or plagiarism in any form. See item 5 below.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

5. The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. See <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0> If you have any questions about how academic integrity applies to this course, please consult with me.

DISABILITY SERVICES

6. If you require disability-related accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources located in the Student Development and Advising area of the student services building. For more information about Disability Resources or academic accommodations, please visit the website at: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/disres>

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

7. All students are requested *not* to bring cell phones, pagers, tape recorders or any other intrusive electronic gadgetry into the classroom. If you have special needs for such items, please discuss them with me privately. Further, I do not want computers in the classroom. Take notes with a pencil (much cheaper) and retype your notes into your computer files as a study tool along with your reading notes.
8. If you arrive late please come in quietly. Please let me know if you need to leave early and leave the room quietly. Be respectful of me and your classmates and **DO NOT TALK DURING LECTURES OR FILMS**. I will ask you to leave.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. The **Mid-term** will be administered in class on the day designated. You will be responsible for the material covered to that date in lectures, readings, and films. Questions will be framed as multiple choice, short answer, definitions and short essay type questions. The **Final Exam** will be the same format and will be set according to the University Final Exam Schedule. Study Guides will be provided.
2. **Research Paper:** See WebCT notes on *Research Paper: Anthropology*. Your research essay **must** focus on Papua New Guinea or another Melanesian society (excluding Fiji) and come within the parameters of this course. This research paper will be no less than 10 and no more than 11 pages, using standard font size, Times New Roman 12, PLUS your references cited pages. No fancy fonts please. Late papers are not acceptable unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be defined by myself) with appropriate documentation (medical or death certificates required).
3. Please clear your paper topic with me any time before you start but no later than in the week after Reading Break at the very latest. Once your first draft is complete you can contemplate, reconsider, rearrange, rethink, and rewrite, rewrite, rewrite. I am available to preview, critique and generally offer feedback and direction at any stage of your paper at any time during office hours or by appointment **until March 11, 2010** after which you are on your own.
4. **Send me an email copy of your paper by midnight of the due date.** I will comment, grade and send back to you electronically. For your own protection, always photocopy (or make a back-up copy on your paper

Late assignments or excuses for late assignments are not acceptable. If you have a genuine problem, tell me ahead of time, not the day before, day of, or day after your work is due, and we can work something out. Having another course assignment due on the same day as this course is not an excuse; you have had plenty of time to schedule your work (time management is key) to accommodate such eventualities.

Contrary to popular opinion, this is the real world of work, deadlines, multiple and conflicting responsibilities and so on; part of your education is learning to deal with life's expectations, the unexpected, conflicting obligations and exigencies.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, FILMS, ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment due dates are **firm**; however, our interests and discussions may result in a disproportionate amount of time being spent on a particular topic/issue. **I reserve the right, in consultation with the class, to make changes to this syllabus.** If you are absent during that consultation process, you are still bound by its results. In any event, we will plan to proceed as per attached schedule:

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Films/Notes
1	Jan 5-7	Introduction to the Course	Barker C.1	Where in the world in PNG Film: <i>First Contact</i>
2	Jan 12-14	Socio-economic Prestige Systems	Barker C.2	Foods of the Pacific (ppt)
3	Jan 19-21	Kinship & Social Organization	Barker C.3	Film: <i>Turnim Hed: Courtship and Music</i> DU740.42.T87 1992
4	Jan 26-28	Belief Systems, Magic & Missionization	Barker C.4	Film: <i>Shark Callers of Kontu</i> GN671.N5S48. 1981
5	Feb 2-4	Community, Conflict, Cultural Change	Barker, C. 5 & 6	Study guide posted WebCT Vista Film: <i>Changing Ground</i> DU740.42.C46 2001
6	Feb 9 Feb. 11	Community, Conflict, Cultural Change Mid Term FEB 11	Barker, C. 5 & 6 Mid Term Feb 11	Mid Term FEB 11 McPherson at Conference
7 Feb 15-19 Reading Break: No Classes				
8	Feb 23-25	Gender relations and Embodiment	Wardlow C 1 & 2	
9	Mar 2-4	Marriage, Bridewealth & Female Agency	Wardlow C. 3-4	
10	Mar 9-11	Sex, sexuality and <i>Pasinja meri</i>	Wardlow C. 5 & 6 and Conclusion chapter	HIV ppt. Last day to discuss your paper with me.
11	Mar 16-18	In a Flap about Meat	Gewertz & Errington C.1 & 2	Film: <i>Advertising Missionaries</i> HF5813.P36.A38.1997
12	Mar 23-25	Trading Flaps	Gewertz & Errington C.3 & 4	Email Research Paper deadline Midnight March 25
13	Mar 30-Apr 1	Food & Globalization	Gewertz & Errington C. 5 & 6	
14	Apr.6-8	PNG and "Glocalization," postmodernism and identity		Final Exam Study Guide posted WebCt Vista
	April 14-28	Exam Period		Final Exam Date will be posted

