Objectives

It can be argued that 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 some of the most distinctive cultural practices anywhere in the world. 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 representations of the Pacific generated inside and outside the region, as well as with the experience of indigenous communities.

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. These experiences, past and present, have much to teach us about cultural interaction and identity formation, especially in small 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.

In approaching this complex and changing region, this course will provide an overview of the diverse range of communities that make up the island region today, with particular attention to the interplay of culture and politics in shaping Pacific identities.

Requirements
Active student participation through contributions to class discussion is important (10%). The remaining 90% of a student’s grade will consist of two mid-term exams (20% and 20%), an assignment on Pacific tourism (10%), and a final exam (40%).
Readings: Required Books
Hau’ofa, Epeli, Tales of the Tikongs
Marshall, Mac, Weekend Warriors: Alcohol in a Micronesian Culture
Small, Cathy A. Voyages: From Tongan Villages to American Suburbs
Smith, Michael F. Hard Times on Kairiru Island

Required Maps
Pacific Islands Map Set. $3 (available in class or from the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, Moore Hall 212)

Optional Books
Lockwood, Victoria, T. Harding, and B. Wallace, Contemporary Pacific Societies

Week by week outline:

1. INTRODUCTION: GEOCULTURAL HISTORY

no reading assigned

2. Aug 29: Overview: Cultural and Political Areas
guest speaker: Prof. Robert Kiste, UH Center for Pacific Islands Studies
reading: Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times,” in Tides of History (3-28)

3. Aug 31: Voyaging & Imagining the Pacific
reading: Hau’ofa, “Our Sea of Islands,” (2-16)
film: Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey

4. Sept 3: NO CLASS (HOLIDAY: LABOR DAY)

5. Sept 5: Navigation: Technologies & Cultures of Voyaging
guest speaker: Prof. Ben Finney, UH Dept. of Anthropology

reading: Pawley, “Language,” in Rapaport (181-194)

7. Sept 10: Reconstructing Island Pasts
guest speaker: Terry Hunt, UH Dept. of Anthropology
reading: Bellwood, “The Colonization of the Pacific,” (1-46)
8. Sept 12: Land and Sea Environments  
reading: Fryer and Fryer, “Geology,” in Rapaport (33-35)  
         Crocombe, “Tenure,” in Rapaport (208-220)

9. Sept 14: Atoll societies  
reading: Alkire, *Coral Islanders*, Ch. 1, (3-18)  
film: *Mokil*

10. Sept 17: **MIDTERM EXAM I (with Map)**

II. SOCIAL WORLDS
11. Sept 19: Cultural Identities  
guest speaker: Prof. Vilsoni Hereniko, UH Center for Pacific Islands Studies  

12. Sept 21: Island Cosmologies: Land / Ancestors / Chiefs  
reading: White, (19-51)

13. Sept 24: Social Relations: Exchange & Reciprocity  
reading: Lindstrom, “Social Relations,” in Rapaport (195-207)

14. Sept 26: Political Patterns: “Big Men” and Chiefs  
reading: Sahlins "Poor Man, Rich Man, Big Man, Chief" (203-215).

15. Sept 28: Big Men and Exchange Practices  
film: *Ongka’s Big Moka*

reading: Shore, “Mana and Tapu,” (137-173)

III. COLONIZATION & RESPONSE
17. Oct 3: Colonization  
reading: Hanlon, “Patterns of Colonial Rule in Micronesia,” (93-118)  
guest speaker: Prof. David Hanlon, UH Dept of History

18. Oct 5: “First Contacts”  
reading: White, (81-102)  
film: *First Contact*

19. Oct 8: Christianity & Conversion  
reading: White, (103-130)

reading: view *Trobiand Cricket* outside of class

21. Oct 12: **MIDTERM EXAM II**
22. Oct 15: Social Movements & Decolonization  
reading: TBA

23. Oct 17: The Pacific War  
reading: White & Lindstrom, “War Stories,” (3-40)  
film: Angels of War

guest speaker: Julie Walsh, PhD Candidate, UH Dept of Anthropology

film: Radio Bikini

IV. SOCIAL-POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS  
reading: Kaplun, “Imagining a Nation,” (34-54).

27. Oct 26: Nationalism, Gender & Sexuality

28. Oct 29: Gender, Tradition & Modernity  
reading: Errington & Gewertz, “...True Love...” (233-248).

29. Oct 31: Urban Transformations  
reading: Marshall, 3-50  
film: Yap, How Did You Know We’d Like TV?

30. Nov 2: Identity Struggles: Youth, Gender and Alcohol  
reading: Marshall, 51-98

31. Nov 5: Drinking Dramas: “Rites of Modernization”  
reading: Marshall, 99-136

32. Nov 7: Cultural Patterns of Conflict and Emotion: Suicide  

33. Nov 9: “Disentangling”: Social Repair

34. Nov 12: NO CLASS (HOLIDAY, VETERANS DAY)

35. Nov 14: Rural Lives and Pacific “Poverty”  
reading: Smith, 1-69  
film: Black Harvest
36. Nov 16: Morality and Worldview
reading: Smith, 70-133

37. Nov 19: Meanings of “Development”
reading: Smith, 134-189

38. Nov 21: Resistance and Rebellion: Bougainville
reading: Smith, 190-236
guest speaker: Prof. Eugene Ogan, UH Center for Pacific Islands Studies

39: Nov 23: **NO CLASS (HOLIDAY, THANKSGIVING)**

V. GLOBAL PACIFIC
40: Nov 26: Tourism
reading: Helu-Thaman, “Beyond Hula, Hotels and Handicrafts,” (104-111)

41. Nov 28: Custom & Tourism  [TOURISM ASSIGNMENT DUE]
film: *Cannibal Tours*
reading: Jolly, “Kastom as Commodity, (131-146)

42. Nov 30: “The Pacific Way”
reading: Hau’ofa, *Tales of the Tikongs*, 1-42

43: Dec 3: Ironies of “Development”
reading: Hau’ofa, *Tales of the Tikongs*, 43-93

44. Dec 5: Migration & Diaspora
reading: Small, 3-49
film: *Sacred Vessels*

45. Dec 7: Roots & Routes: Pacific Islander Americans
reading: Small, 51-100

46. Dec 10: Tradition, Modernity & the Politics of Culture
reading: Small, 101-158.

47. Dec 12: Traveling Cultures
reading: Small, 159-205

48. Dec 14: **FINAL EXAM**
ANTH 350 Syllabus, p. 6

**Reading List**
(To avoid repetition, textbooks are not listed here. See page 2 for authors & titles).

Alcalay, Glenn H.

Alkire, William H.

Bellwood, Peter,

Carucci, Laurence

Errington, Frederick and Deborah Gewertz

Finney, Ben

Fryer, Gerard J. and Patricia Fryer

Hanlon, David

Hau‘ofa, Epeli

Helu-Thaman, Konai
Hereniko, Vilsoni

Jolly, Margaret

Kaplan, Martha

Kiste, Robert.

Pawley, Andrew.

Rubinstein, Donald H.

Sahlins, Marshall

Shore, Bradd.

White, Geoffrey

White, Geoffrey M., and Lamont Lindstrom
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.)


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

Yap: How Did You Know We'd Like TV? (1982) by Dennis O’Rourke. Film Australia Library Code: UHM AV/C 4435, UH film H69 (55 min.)