Anthropology 350: Pacific Islands Cultures

CRN: 80229
Class website is on the WebCT server: http://webct.hawaii.edu/
Class email list: anth350-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.

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

Requirements
Active student participation through contributions to class discussion is important (10%). The remaining 90% of a student’s grade will consist of a mid-term exam (20%), film essays (25%), and a final exam (45%).
Readings: Required Books
- Reading Packet: purchase from Campus Copy, 2465 Campus Rd #104 (941-1098)
  [NOTE: packet readings also on reserve at Sinclair Library]
- Hau'ofa, Epeli, *Tales of the Tikongs*

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, *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*
White, Geoffrey M. *Identity Through History: Living Stories in a Solomon Island Society*

Week by week outline:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Aug 24: Introduction
   no reading assigned

2. Aug 26: Envisioning the Pacific
   reading: Hau’ofa, “Our Sea of Islands,” (2-16)
   film: *Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey*

3. Aug 31: Overview: Geographic / Linguistic / Political Areas
   Reading: Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times,” in *Tides of History* (3-21)

4. Sept 2: Mapping the Pacific: Geography/ Culture / History

5. Sept 7: Migration and Settlement: Archeological and Linguistic Views
   guest speaker: Terry Hunt, UH Dept. of Anthropology
   reading: D’Arcy & Tryon, “Settlement of the Pacific,” *Encyclopedia* (53-67)

6. Sept 9: Voyaging & Navigating the Pacific
   guest speaker: Prof. Ben Finney

7. Sept 14: MIDTERM EXAM I (with Map)

II. SOCIAL WORLDS

8. Sept 16: Island Cosmologies: Ancestors / Descent / Land
   reading: White, Ch. 3, “Portraits of the Past” in *Identity Through History* (30-51)
reading: Sahlins “Poor Man, Rich Man, Big Man, Chief” (203-215).  
film: Ongka’s Big Moka

10. Sept 23: Oceanic Spirituality: Ancestors / Spirits / Power  
reading: Shore, “Mana and Tapu” (137-151)

III. COLONIZATION & RESISTANCE

11. Sept 28: Christianity & Conversion  
reading: White, Ch 6, “Conversion & Consolidation,” Identity Through History (103-130)  
film: The Transformed Isles

12. Sept 30: The Pacific War  
reading: Lindstrom & White, “War Stories” (3-40)

13. Oct 5: Colonial Histories  
reading: Lockwood, “The Global Imperative and Pacific Island Societies” (1-21)  
guest speaker: Prof. David Chappell, UH Dept of History

14. Oct 7: Nuclear Pacific  
reading: Kahn, “Placing Tahitian Identities” in Lockwood (285-306)  
film: Radio Bikini

IV. “DEVELOPMENT,” NATION-MAKING, AND GLOBALIZATION

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

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

17. Oct 19: Crises of Globalization I: Mining (Bougainville)  
Spriggs, Ruth “Chronology of a Crisis.” in Pacific Is: Encyclopedia (263-265)  
guest speaker: Terence Wesley-Smith

reading: Macintyre & Foale, “Global Imperatives and Local Desires” in Lockwood (excerpt, 160-164)  
film: Since The Company Came
reading: White, “Natives and Nations” (139-166)
Guest speaker: Dr. Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, East-West Center.
film: For Guns and Money

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

21. Nov 2: NO CLASS (ELECTION DAY)

22. Nov 4: Americanization & Militarization: Micronesia
reading: Diaz, ‘Fight Boys ’til the Last…’: Islandstyle Football . . . in the Militarized American Pacific Islands” (169-194).
film: Sacred Vessels

23. Nov 9: Nationalism, Gender & Sexuality
reading: Tengan, “(En)Gendering Colonialism” (239-256)
guest speaker: Prof. Ty Kawika Tengan, UH Depts. of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies

24. Nov 11: NO CLASS (HOLIDAY, VETERANS DAY)

V. GLOBAL PACIFIC

film: Killing Time

reading: Lee, Helen Morton, “All Tongans Are Connected” in Lockwood (133-148)
guest speaker: Prof. Heather Young Leslie, UH Dept. of Anthropology

27. Nov 23: Pacific Diaspora
film: Velvet Dreams

28. Nov 25: NO CLASS (HOLIDAY, THANKSGIVING)

reading: Silverman, “Cannibalizing, Commodifying . . . in Sepik River Tourism” in Lockwood (339-357)
film: Cannibal Tours
30. Dec 2: Tourism: Consuming Others  
   reading: Trask, “Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture” (21-23)  
   Helu-Thaman, “Beyond Hula, Hotels and Handicrafts” (104-111)  
   website: Historic Waikiki: http://www.downwindproductions.com/

31. Dec 7: Traveling Cultures: Pacific Hip Hop  
   reading: Henderson, “Between Our Islands We Dance” (1-30)  
   guest speaker: Prof. Katerina Teaiwa, UH Center for Pacific Islands Studies

32. Dec 9: [REVIEW SESSION]  
   no reading assigned

48. Dec xx: FINAL EXAM
**Reading List**


**Filmography**


*Babakiueria* (1986) Director, Don Featherstone. Australia: Australian Broadcasting Corporation. (29 minutes)

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


*Kilim Taem (Killing Time)* (1998) In Melanesian Pidgin with English subtitles. UHM AV/C VIDEOTAPE 18783 (50 min)


*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)

*Velvet Dreams* (1997) [UHM AV/C VIDEOTAPE 17151] (46 min.)

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