Objectives of the Course

Although press and other media often predict that the 21st century will be "The Pacific Century", the average North American knows little about the area. Anthropology 2P3 is a course designed to provide students with an introduction to the peoples of the islands of the Pacific - their history, traditions and current ways of life, and their responses to contact, colonialism and cultural change. We will concentrate equally upon the past and the present in Oceania. Some lectures and readings focus upon the ways of life and thought that Pacific peoples represent to outsiders and to themselves as "customary". However, kastom and rapid change coexist in the Pacific today, and we will spend much of the course discussing how Pacific islanders are adapting to life in the late twentieth century. Specific topics relating to the “new” Pacific that we will examine include the roots of dependency and underdevelopment in Pacific island societies, the status of women in Oceania today, tourism in “the last paradise” and progress toward a nuclear-free Pacific.

We will discuss many varieties of anthropological experience in the South Pacific and also Pacific islanders' reactions to outsiders who come to study their ways of life. By the end of the course, I hope you will have a better understanding of life in Pacific island societies. I also hope you will have gained deeper insight into anthropology as a way of life - the reasons why anthropologists do what they do, how they conduct fieldwork, what they hope to achieve, how they reach their conclusions, and the many and subtle ways in which the process of fieldwork transforms both their lives and the lives of the people they study.

The Scope of the Course

2P3 will focus on Pacific islanders who live in Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia, a part of the world that is often called "Oceania" or “The Island Pacific”. The course does not cover Japan or the countries on the Pacific rim, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia or Australia.
Prerequisites

This course is "Open" and requires no prerequisites. However, before you decide to take 2P03, I must underline the obvious: this is a second year course in anthropology that will be taught on a more advanced level than that of our introductory courses. In order to proceed at a reasonable pace, I must assume that members of the class have an understanding of basic concepts in social and cultural anthropology.

Required Readings

This course has a single required text::

Rodman, W.

I designed this collection of readings on Pacific societies especially for this year’s class taking 2P03. The articles in the reader relate directly to the content of lectures and come from a wide variety of sources. (See list at end of syllabus.)

You should acquire the required text as soon as possible. Not only is it important to begin reading the assigned articles; the text also contain maps of the Pacific that we will be using intensively in the first few weeks of class. As I discuss below, there will be a map test in a month's time.

I also would like to recommend to you an optional text:

Stanley, David

This handbook is a goldmine of interesting and useful information on most of the inhabited islands in the Polynesia and Melanesia. If you ever plan to visit some of the places we will discuss in 2P03, this is far and away the best book to buy.

Mode of Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on the results of three exams and an essay:

1. Map Test, February 3rd 15% of total grade
2. Mid-Term, February 24th 25% " " "
3. Essay, due March 17th 25% " " "
4. Final Exam, Date Set By the University 35% " " "

In a month's time, there will be an in-class test on basic information you will find on the maps of the Pacific and in Stanley's Introduction to the *South Pacific Handbook*, both of which can be
found in the required text. For the test, you will be expected to know the main cultural and
geographic divisions in Oceania and the names and approximate locations of major islands and
island groups. The in-class mid-term and the university-set final exam both will consist primarily
of questions that are designed to test your understanding of course materials presented in lectures,
films and those parts of the required readings that relate to class discussion. The assigned essay
will be approximately 6 typewritten pages in length and will ask you to think more deeply about
some of the issues we will discuss in class.

More information on each of the course requirements will be available as we proceed through the
term.

All students should be aware of the definition and consequences of plagiarism and other forms of
dishonesty as set out in the “Statement on Academic Ethics” and the “Senate Resolutions on
Academic Dishonesty” (in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in
the Senate Office, GH/104).

Office Hours

My office is in Chester New Hall, Room 502, ex. 23909. During Winter Term, I will hold office
hours at the following times:

Wednesday - 4:30 - 6:20 pm
Thursday - 5:30 - 6:20 pm

I also am available at other times by appointment. If you need to get in touch with me when I am
not in my office, please leave a note in my mailbox in the Anthropology Office on the fifth floor
of Chester New Hall; remember to include in your note a telephone number where I can reach
you. Another good way to get in touch with me quickly is via email. My email address is:

rodman@mcmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

Anthropology 2P3

Schedule of Topics, Readings and Films

First Week: January 6

An Island World: Unity Within Diversity in Oceania

Topics: Introduction to the course
A Visual Introduction to the Pacific (slides)
The Physical Environment: Atolls, Volcanos and High Islands
"Culture Areas" in the Pacific
The Importance of Studying Pacific Island Cultures
Readings:

*Please Study the Maps of the Pacific in the Coursepack*
Deryck Scarr, "Islands and an Ocean"
Margaret Mead, "A Day in Samoa"
New York Times - “Islanders See Global Warming...”
David Stanley, "Introduction" to South Pacific Handbook

Second Week: January 13

**In Search of Islands: The Peopling of the Pacific**
Topics: Whodunit? The Origins of Pacific Peoples
How Did They Do It?: Theories of Pacific Exploration
Why Did They Do It? The Rediscovery of Pacific Voyaging

Readings:
Peter Bellwood, “The Origins of Pacific Peoples”
Bronwen Douglas, “Pre-European Societies in the Pacific Islands”
John Terrell, “The Prehistoric Pacific”

Film: *The Navigators*

Third Week: January 20

**The Point of Contact: Strangers in Paradise**
Topics: Secrets of the Navigators
European Motives for Exploration
The Search for the Noble Savage

Readings:
Ian Cameron, "Introduction" to Lost Paradise
B. Connelly and R. Anderson, "What is Beyond?"

Slides of early European views of the South Pacific and its peoples

Film: *First Contact*

Fourth Week: January 27

**A Plague of Cannibals: Death, Disease and the European Imagination of the “Primitive”**
Topics: An Epidemic in the New Guinea Highlands
Fore as Cannibals/The White Cannibals
Carleton Gajdusek Wins A Nobel Prize
Kuru, CJD, and “Mad Cow” Disease: Alternative Explanations
“The Cannibal Smile”: Consuming Cannibalism

Reading:

Hank Nelson, “Kuru: The Pursuit of the Prize and the Cure”

Slides of the Fore and Kuru

Film:  “Lords of the Garden”, aka “Cannibal Justice”

Fifth Week: February 3

The Boar's Tusks, The Spirits' Call:  The Politics of Pigs and Place in Vanuatu

Topics:  
Map Test on February 3rd
Fieldwork on “Bali Ha’i”
Doubling Up: Why Ambaeans Get Married Twice, Buried Twice and Have Ten Wakes
The Great Game of Pigs and Politics
The Craft of Fieldwork, the Art of Interpretation

Readings:

Lissant Bolton, “Tahigogona’s Sisters: Women, Mats and Landscape...”
Bill Rodman: “The Boars of Bali Ha’i: Pigs in Paradise”
“Pigs and Politics in Ambae, Vanuatu/Pigs and Politics: A Game of Strategy”

Slides of fieldwork in Vanuatu

Sixth Week: February 10

Big Men of Small Lands: Tradition and Leadership in Oceania

Topics:  
Major Features of Leadership in Melanesia and Polynesia
“Big Men” and “Chiefs”
The Melanesian Entrepreneur
Political Change and the Levelling of Chiefs

Readings:
Richard Scaglion, “Chiefly Models in Papua New Guinea”
Bill Rodman, “Sorcery and the Silencing of Chiefs…”
“Some Major Features of Leadership in Melanesia”

Seventh Week: **Midterm Recess (February 17)**

Eighth Week: February 24

**Mid-term Examination/ Tradition and Leadership in Oceania II**

Film: *The Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka*

Ninth Week: March 3

**The Transformations of Tradition in the Postmodern Pacific**

Topics:
- Transformations of Tradition Within Anthropology
- The Quest for the Authentic and The Invention of Tradition
- Observing Tradition: The Case of the Wala Kalja Club
- “Everything Old is New Again”: Cultural Renewal and the
- Shaping of Identity
- Cargo Cults, Identity and Development

Readings:
Kenelm Burridge, “Melanesian Cargo Cults”

Slides and Video of the Wala Kalja Club in action

Tenth Week: March 10

"**Sun, Sex, Sights, Savings and Servility**: Tourism in “The Untouched Paradise”"

Topics:
- The Case in Favor of International Tourism
- The Costs of Tourism: What We’ve Learned
- The Selling of Bali Ha'i

Readings:
Frederick Errington and D. Gewertz, “Tourism and Anthropology in a Post-Modern World”
Edward Bruner, "Of Cannibals, Tourists and Ethnographers"
Konai Helu-Thaman, "Beyond Hula, Hotels and Handicrafts..."
SPPF Fact Sheet, "Tourism in the Pacific Islands"

Film:  *Cannibal Tours*

Eleventh Week: March 17

**The New Pacific: Alcohol, Drugs and Development**

**NB: Essay due on March 18th**

Topics:  
Weekend Warriors on Truk (Micronesia)  
The Colonial Hangover  
Beer and Business: The Role of Alcohol in Economic Development  
The Problems with Kava as Drug of Choice

Readings:  
Tom Harrisson, “Kava negatives the legs...” (*Savage Civilization*)  
Lamont Lindstrom, “Kava, Cash and Custom in Vanuatu”  
Dahn Batchelor, “A Drunk is Responsible for His Actions”  
Mac Marshall, "A Pacific Haze: Alcohol and Drugs in Oceania”  
“Alcohol and Kava: Some Points of Comparison”

Twelfth Week: March 24

**Problems in the New Pacific: Underdevelopment, The Status of Women, Christianities**

Readings:  
James MacBean, “Degrees of Otherness”  
SPPF Fact Sheet "The Status Of Women in the Pacific Islands"  
John Finch, “Women Work Harder Than Men”  
“modernity”

Film:  *Black Harvest*

Thirteenth Week: March 31

**The Nuclear Playground: Modern Colonialism and the Rise of the "Nuklia Fri Pasifik" Movement**

Topics:  
The "Bravo" Test: What Did America Know About the Effects of Radiation?  
American Foreign Policy and "The Pacific Equation"  
The French Tests and the Sinking of the "Rainbow Warrior"  
Towards a Nuclear Free Pacific
Readings:

Glenn Alcalay, "Nuclear Hegemony..."
David North, "America's Painful Atomic Secrets"
“France Unleashes A-Blast/France Ends Tests in South Pacific”

Film:  *Half-Life*

Fourteenth Week: April 7

**The Island Pacific: Some Concluding Possibilities**

“Island countries are like a school of sardines facing a number of hungry sharks. Like the sardines, if they do not swim together they will be eaten.” Roger Ward, 1993.

Readings:

Epeli Hau’ofa, “The Ocean in Us”
“A Historic Vote: The Native Hawaiian Vote, 1996”

**Anthropology 2P3E**  
**Required Readings on Pacific Ethnology**

**Bibliography**

Alcalay, Glenn  

Batchelor, Dahn  

Bellwood, Peter  

Bolton, Lissant  

Bourne, Will  

Bruner, Edward

Burridge, Kenelm

Cameron, Ian

Connelly, B. and R. Anderson

Douglas, Bronwen

Errington, Frederick and D. Gewertz


Finch, John

Gewertz, Deborah and Frederick Errington

Harrisson, Tom

Hau'ofa, Epeli

Helu-Thanman, Konai


Lindstrom, Lamont
MacBean, James

Marshall, Mac

Mead, Margaret

Nelson, Hank

North, David

Rodman, William

______________

Scaglion, Richard

South Pacific Peoples Foundation
1991 Fact Sheet, "The Status Of Women in the Pacific Islands."

1991 Fact Sheet, "Tourism in the Pacific Islands."

Stanley, David

Terrell, John