PASI 2002
Pacific Encounters: An Introduction to History and Culture in Oceania

Semester 2, 2008

Lecturer: Dr Paul D’Arcy
Coombs Room 4223
Phone: 6125 3172
Email: paul.darcy@anu.edu.au

Teaching/learning methods

There will be 2 hours of lectures and one hour of tutorials per week. Tutorials will centre on historical debates and focus on developing students’ verbal communication skills through small group interaction, tutorial debates and group discussions.

Lecture Timetable:
Tuesday 11am-1pm LAW G06

Tutorial Timetable:
Thursday 12.00am-1pm Copland GO39

Office Hours:

TBA. The lecturer is available for consultation on essays and any problems you are having with the course during weekly office hours, and by appointment outside of these hours. 3 hours per week will be set aside for student meetings. The hours will be decided in consultation with the class during the first week of lectures.

For 2/2008 Office Hours will be 1-2pm, 3-4pm Tuesday, 1-2pm Thursday

Course Content

This course covers the history of the peoples of the tropical Pacific Islands from their initial settlement of the region until the present day. A major theme throughout is Pacific Islanders’ consistent expectation of influences and opportunities from beyond the horizon, and their ability to incorporate these external forces into their own perspectives. Beginning with Islanders’ colonisation of the region, the course then moves on chronologically to chart their progressive involvement in the emerging global economy following sustained European contacts with the region. Themes covered include the seafaring and navigational brilliance of the first colonizers of the region, their special relationship with the sea and its marine inhabitants, their struggles to establish colonies on small islands, the mystery surrounding the
destruction of Easter Island society, culture contact with Europeans and the dramatic death of Captain Cook in Hawaii, resistance to European rule, the Pacific War during WWII, decolonization and the problems and benefits of independence, and contemporary issues such as instability, retaining and asserting cultural integrity in the era of globalisation, and the continuing struggle for independence for many.

Because of the diversity of cultures within the Pacific Islands, lectures will be based around general themes backed up by select examples. However, the course bibliography that follows provides a detailed bibliography to enable students to pursue essay themes for the island groups of their choice.

Course objectives
This course seeks to:

Provide an understanding of the historical processes shaping contemporary Pacific communities.

Develop an awareness of the important role external influences have always played in Pacific societies.

Gain an appreciation of the historical origins and development of social institutions, culture and life-ways in the Pacific.

Foster an understanding of history as a complex two-way interaction between historical events and subsequent historical interpretations.

As well as introducing students to the history of Oceania, this course aims to develop skills that are important to historians. These skills all have wider application in areas outside of the study of history. In developing these skills you are also enhancing your value to future employers.

These skills are:

2. Evaluating conflicting interpretations of events, including the detection of bias and unstated assumptions underlying arguments presented.
3. Effectively arguing your own viewpoint through clearly stated, well-planned essays.
4. Developing clarity and confidence in verbal expression through tutorial exercises.

Assessment
Course assessment is based on the following:

1. Attendance and participation (10%)
2. 1200 word essay (20%) Due 22 August
3. 2000 word essay (30%) Due 26 September
4. Examination on course lecture material (40%)

NOTE: A review of the exam will be conducted during the last lecture.
## Lecture Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>Introduction/Oceanic environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>Hollywood’s Pacific: Western images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>The Settlement of Oceania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>Pacific Islanders as seafarers and navigators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 August</td>
<td>The mystery of Easter Island/Rapanui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 August</td>
<td>The Melanesia-Polynesia-Micronesia divide: reality or perception?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>Cultural Interaction in Western Polynesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>The Oceanic cultural world: lifestyles and beliefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>Culture contact: Film <em>First Contact</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>Culture contact: The death of Captain Cook in Hawai’i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 August</td>
<td>Fatal Impact: muskets and introduced disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 August</td>
<td>Missionaries and the conversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>The impact of the labour trade on the Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>Eroding sovereignty: the case of Hawai’i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>The establishment of colonial rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>Colonial interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>WWII in the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>The decolonization of Oceania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>Essay research week – no lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>Essay research week – no lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture Recess</strong></td>
<td>29 September–12 October  Lecture Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>The forgotten colony: West Papua/Irian Jaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>Political independence &amp; economic dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>Divided loyalties: post-independence Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>Modernization: Local needs and global influences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 October</td>
<td>Big Brother or Good Neighbour: Australia &amp; the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 October</td>
<td>Course review/overview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tutorial Programme

Note: All tutorial readings are contained in either a course book of readings and/or on Web CT depending on student preferences indicated in the first lecture.

Week 1 No tutorials (24 July)

Week 2 Introduction (31 July)

Map exercise/Course outline and requirements/study skills

Week 3 Oceania’s Cultural Diversity (7 August)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
Where do the arguments of Sahlins and Douglas differ in their categorization of Oceania’s cultures? How appropriate are the terms Melanesia and Polynesia as cultural groupings? How useful is leadership as a focus for analysing cultural divisions within Oceania? What other kinds of criteria could also be used for defining cultural divisions?

Week 4 Culture Contact (August 14)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
How did Polynesians and Europeans perceive each other during their initial encounters? What relative advantages and disadvantages did each party hold? Were cultural differences more or less important than the perceived balance of power in determining the actions of both sides?
Week 5  Navigating the Pacific: printed & archival resources (August 21) (*Tutorial to be held in the Menzies Library*)

Readings:

Discussion Issues: Library and archival staff will raise issues with you on the assumption that you have read the assigned readings above.

Week 6  The Death of Captain Cook (August 28)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
List all the explanations put forward in the articles to explain the death of Cook. Which do you find the most convincing and why – by prepared to defend your position in the tutorial? Do you detect any preferences or bias in the authors’ assessments? Are there any other possible explanations they fail to discuss?

Week 7  The Labour Trade (4 September)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
What motivated Pacific Islanders to participate in the labour trade? How much was coercion a factor, as opposed to the perceived and real benefits to be gained? What was life like for recruits working in Queensland? What effect did the labour trade have on the Pacific Island societies from where recruits were drawn?

Week 8  Resistance v. Accommodation (11 September)

Readings:

Discussion issues:
What are the three ways that conflicts between Pacific Islanders and colonial regimes have been represented according to Douglas? What are the problems with these representations? What approach does she propose to overcome these problems? What reasons are given for Kanak groups siding with the French in the various conflicts discussed?

Week 9 Colonial Protest (18 September)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
What did the participants of the Rabaul strike hope to achieve? What influences persuaded them to adopt this form of protest? What does the course of events reveal about the attitudes of the colonized and the colonizer? How feasible were their aspirations, given the attitudes and circumstances prevalent at the time in Australian New Guinea?

Week 10 No Tutorials – Essay Research Week (25 September)

Week 11 Independence and Dependence? (16 October)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
How independently have sovereign Pacific Island nations acted since gaining independence? What constraints are there on Pacific Island nations pursuing policies perceived to be in their own self-interest? How should we define “independence” in today’s world?

Week 12 The Politics of Ethnicity (23 October)

Readings:

Discussion Issues:
How compatible is “the liberal ideal” with the aspirations of indigenous groups within the Pacific? Did the Fiji Constitution Review Commission recommend a workable solution to Fiji’s problems, or were there ways that it could have been improved upon?

**Week 13**  
No Tutorials – & 12am-1pm 30 October as extra exam consultation office hour instead
ESSAY TOPICS

You are required to submit two essays on different topics:
1200 word essay (20%) **Due 22 August**
2000 word essay (30%) **Due 26 September**
The possible questions you can address are listed below.

1. Either (a) How do Pacific Islander constructions of history differ from western concepts of history? How compatible are the two approaches?

   Or (b) How and why has Pacific Island historiography changed since World War Two? What improvements still need to be made to current approaches to Pacific History?

2. To what degree are Thor Heyerdahl’s theories concerning Polynesian origins still valid in the light of the evidence available today?

3. Assess the sea-faring achievement of Pacific Islanders in the initial settlement period. How far can the Pacific have been settled by accident as Andrew Sharp claimed?

4. With reference to specific examples, discuss how the peoples of the tropical Pacific coped with the challenges presented by their island environments.

5. Are Melanesia and Polynesia valid cultural entities or merely geographical divisions? Justify your answer.

6. Demonstrate how studies focused on the relatively neglected fields of women’s history and gender studies have enriched Pacific historiography over the past two decades.

7. Can the death of Captain Cook at Kealakekua Bay in February 1779 be explained without recourse to traditional Hawaiian politics and ritual?

8. The sandalwood trade was “a trade steeped in human blood and indescribable vice.” (J.S. Paton) Discuss.

9. How did the arrival of Western beachcombers and Western goods affect Pacific Island communities in the first half of the nineteenth century? How significant was the flow of Pacific Islanders sailing abroad in Western vessels in the same period.

9. Assess the impact of introduced diseases on Pacific Island communities in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

10. Outline and account for the variety of images Pacific Islanders and Europeans held.

11. Why did most Pacific Island societies ultimately accept Christianity?
12. “The common means of change in both Melanesia and Polynesia was commerce initiated and conducted by Europeans ...”. (I.C. Campbell) Discuss in relation to one or more Pacific Island societies in the nineteenth century.

13. What motivated Pacific Islanders to participate in the labour trade? What effect did the labour trade have on the communities from which recruits were drawn?

14. How much change to their pre-colonial lifestyles did Pacific Islanders experience in the colonial era?

15. In what ways did Pacific Islanders seek to resist European domination in the colonial period? How successful were they in these attempts?

16. How did the experience of World War Two alter the outlook and aspirations of indigenous inhabitants and colonial authorities in Oceania?

17. With reference to one or more Pacific Island nations, discuss how well the decolonisation process prepared Pacific Islanders for independence.

18. Why have certain colonial powers been so reluctant to concede independence to their Pacific Island territories?

19. Has the decolonisation process resulted in full political and economic autonomy for the newly created nations of Oceania? Justify your answer.

20. What have been the major issues involved in relations between the independent nations of Oceania, and in relations with the world beyond Oceania? Has a distinctly Pacific Island approach emerged in these relations?

21. Design your own question in consultation with the course coordinator, Paul D’Arcy, to ensure the topic is feasible, manageable, and that there are sufficient sources available. You must gain the course coordinator’s approval for your topic. Exploration of alternative forms of knowledge such as dance and music, and the alternative avenues of presenting history such as film and websites are particularly encouraged.
Assessment Criteria

Your essays will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Research**
  - Are the sources used relevant to the topic?
  - Do they comprise a reasonable selection of the available sources for this topic?

- **Comprehension**
  - Does the work demonstrate an adequate understanding of relevant concepts?
  - Have these concepts been appropriately used?

- **Explanation**
  - Are important issues, ideas, processes and events clearly explained?
  - Is their relevance to the argument adequately explained?

- **Analysis**
  - Is the analysis coherently structured?
  - Does the analysis demonstrate familiarity with a reasonable range of relevant scholarly interpretations?
COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

This bibliography is designed to assist your essay research and to allow you to read more on lecture and tutorial topics that you are interested in. It is advisable to read a source from the general section first to gain an overall impression of the topic, before consulting more detailed studies listed in the thematically structured bibliography. Please note that the references listed here do not conform to the standard outlined in tutorials to prevent them being cut and pasted to bolster essay bibliographies without actually being looked at!

JOURNAL ABBREVIATIONS

AA - American Anthropologist
AinO - Archaeology in Oceania
JPH - Journal of Pacific history
JPS - Journal of the Polynesian Society
NZJH - New Zealand Journal of History
PS - Pacific Studies

GENERAL OVERVIEWS

Campbell, I.C., A history of the Pacific Islands, Christchurch, 1989
Howe, K.R., Where the waves fall, Sydney, 1984
Howe, K.R., Kiste, Robert, & Lal, Brij (eds.), Tides of history: the Pacific Islands in the twentieth century, St. Leonards, N.S.W., 1994
Scarr, Deryck, The history of the Pacific Islands, Melbourne, 1990
Spate, O.H.K., Paradise lost and found, Canberra, 1988

PACIFIC HISTORIOGRAPHY

Lal, B.(ed.), Pacific Islands History: journeys and transformations, Canberra, 1992
Maude, H.E., "Pacific History: past, present & future", JPH, vol. 6, 1971, 3-24
Neumann, K. "Not the way it really was: writing a history of the Tolai (Papua New Guinea)", JPH, vol. 24(2), 1989: 209-220
Thomas, Nicholas, "Partial texts: representation, colonialism and agency in Pacific History", JPH, vol. 25(2), 1990, 139-158

TRADITIONAL HISTORY OF PACIFIC ISLAND PEOPLES

Denoon, D. & R. Lacey (eds), Oral tradition in Melanesia, Port Moresby, 1980
Gunson, N., "Understanding Polynesian traditional history", JPH, vol. 28(2), 1993: 139-158
Vansina, J., Oral tradition as history, London, 1985

SETTLEMENT OF OCEANIA, AND NAVIGATION DEBATE

Bellwood, P., Man's conquest of the Pacific: the pre-history of Southeast Asia and Oceania, Canberra, 1979
Irwin, G., The prehistoric exploration and colonisation of the Pacific, Cambridge, 1992
Kirch, P.V., The evolution of the Polynesian chiefdoms, Cambridge, 1984
Lewis, D., "Expanding the target of indigenous navigation", JPH, vol. 6, 1971: 83-95
ISLAND SOCIETIES: GENDER RELATIONS/ THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Hanson, A., "Female pollution in Polynesia", JPS, vol. 91, 1982: 333-381
Taumoefolau, M., "Is the father's sister really black?" JPS, vol. 100(1), 1991: 91-98

ISLAND SOCIETIES: POST-SETTLEMENT EVOLUTION

D’Arcy, Paul, The People of the Sea, Honolulu, 2006
Kirch, P.V., The evolution of the Polynesian chiefdoms, Cambridge, 1984
Laracy, Hugh (ed.), Ples blong yumi: Solomon Islands, the past four thousand years, Suva, 1989

ISLAND SOCIETIES: INTER-ISLAND CONTACTS

Malinowski, B., "Kula", in A.P. Vayda (ed.), Peoples and cultures of the Pacific, New York, 1968

EUROPEAN EXPLORERS OF OCEANIA

Spate, O.H.K., The Spanish lake, Canberra, 1982
Spate, O.H.K., Monopolists and freebooters, Canberra, 1989
Spate, O.H.K., Paradise found and lost, Sydney, 1989

PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND EUROPEANS DISCOVERY OF EACH OTHER

Driessen, H.A.H., "Outriggerless canoes and glorious beings", JPH, vol. 17, 1982:
Hughes, R., The fatal shore, (chs. 2 and 6 on the nature of 18th century British society)
Obeyesekere, Gananath, The apotheosis of Captain Cook: European mythmaking in the Pacific, Princeton, 1992
Quanchi, Max, & Ron Adams, Culture contact in the Pacific: essays on contact, encounter and response, Canberra, 1968
Sahlins, M.D., Islands of history, Chicago, 1985, pp.104-135
Sahlins, M.D., How “natives” think: about Captain Cook, for example, Chicago, 1995.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF EACH OTHER THROUGH TIME
Campbell, I.C., "Polynesian perceptions of Europeans in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries", *PS*, vol. 4, 1982: 64-80
Campbell, I.C., "Race relations in the pre-colonial Pacific Islands", *PS*, vol. 8(2), 1985:61-78
Knapman, C. & Ralston, C., "Historical patchwork: a reply to John Young", *JPH*, vol. 23(2), 1989: 221-224
Linnekin, J., "Ignoble savages and other European visions - the La Perouse affair in Samoan history", *JPH*, vol. 26(1), 1991: 3-26
Pearson, B., *Rifled sanctuaries: some views of the Pacific Islands in Western literature*, Auckland, 1984
Ralston, C., *Grass huts and warehouses*, Canberra, 1977
Young, J., "Evanescent ascendancy: the planter community in Fiji", in J. Davidson & D. Scarr (eds.), *Pacific island portraits*, Canberra, pp.147-175
Young, J., "Papers from the conference", *JPH*, vol. 23(2), 1988: 214-222

**THE IMPACT OF WESTERN DISEASE**

Cliff, A. & P. Haggett, "Island epidemics", *Scientific American*, vol. 250, May 1984
Stannard, D.E., *Before the horror: the population of Hawai‘i on the eve of Western contact*, Honolulu, 1989

**MISSIONARIES AND THE CONVERSION**

Garrett, J., *To live among the stars*, Suva, 1982
Hilliard, D., God's gentlemen: a history of the Melanesian Mission 1849-1942, St. Lucia, 1978
Laracy, H., Marists and Melanesians: a history of Catholic missions in the Solomon Islands, Canberra, 1976

TRADERS AND BEACHCOMBERS
Davidson, J.W., Peter Dillon of Vanikoro, Melbourne, 1975
Maude, H.E., Of islands and men: studies in Pacific History, Melbourne, 1968
Munro, D., "The lives and times of resident traders in Tuvalu: an exercise in history from below", PS, vol. 10(2), 1987: 73-106
Ralston, C., Grass huts and warehouses: Pacific beach communities of the nineteenth century, Canberra, 1977
Shineberg, D., They came for sandalwood: a study of the sandalwood trade in the south-west Pacific, 1830-1865, Melbourne, 1967
Young, John, Australia’s Pacific frontier: economic and cultural expansion into the Pacific, 1795-1885, Sydney, 1983.

THE LABOUR TRADE
Gistitin, Carol, Quite a colony: South Sea Islanders in Central Queensland 1867-1993, Fortitude Valley, Queensland, 1995


Wawn, W.T., *The South Sea Islanders & The Queensland labour trade*, (P. Corris, ed.), Canberra, 1973

**NINETEENTH CENTURY PACIFIC ISLAND POLITICS**


Campbell, I.C., "The alleged imperialism of George Tupou 1", *JPH*, vol. 23(2), 1990: 159-175

Davidson, J.W., *Samoa mo Samoa: the emergence of the independent state of Western Samoa*, Melbourne, 1967


Hanlon, D., *Upon the stone altar: a history of the island of Pohnpei to 1890*, Honolulu, 1988


**COLONIAL RULE IN OCEANIA**


Thompson, R.C., *Australian imperialism in the Pacific*, Melbourne, 1980

**RESISTANCE TO COLONIAL RULE**

Boyd, M., "Coping with Samoan resistance after the 1918 influenza epidemic: Colonel Tate's problems and perplexities", *JPH*, vol. 15(3), 1980:155-174
Gammage, B., "The Rabaul strike, 1929", *JPH*, vol. 10 (3), 1975:3-29
Hempenstall, P.J., *Pacific Islanders under German rule: a study on the meaning of colonial resistance*, Canberra, 1978
Laracy, H.M., "Marching rule and the missions", *JPH*, vol. 6, 1971:96-114
Latham, L., "Revolt re-examined: the 1878 insurrection in New Caledonia", *JPH*, vol. 10(3), 1975: 48-63
Steinbauer, F., *Melanesian cargo cults*, St. Lucia, 1979

**WORLD WAR TWO AND ITS LEGACY**

Guiart, J., "The Jonfrum movement in Tana", *Oceania*, vol. 22, 1951
Peattie, M., *Nan'yo, the rise and fall of the Japanese in Micronesia, 1885-1945*, Honolulu, 1988

Read, K.E., "Effects of the Pacific war in the Markham Valley, New Guinea", *Oceania*, vol. 18(2), 1947


Worsley, P., *The trumpet shall sound*, 1970

### DECOLONIZATION


Davidson, J.W., "The decolonization of Oceania", *JPH*, vol. 6, 1972: 133-150

Davidson, J.W., *Samoa mo Samoa: The emergence of the independent state of Western Samoa*, Melbourne, 1967


MacDonald, B., "Decolonization and beyond: the framework for post-colonial relationships in Oceania", *JPH*, vol. 21(3-4), 1986: 115-126

Whitlam, G., "New nations and old imperialism", *Australian Quarterly*, vol. 35 (1), 1981

### COLONIAL REMNANTS - DECOLONIZATION DENIED


Firth, S., "The nuclear issue in the Pacific Islands", *JPH*, vol. 21 (4), 1986: 202-216

Firth, S., *Nuclear playground*, Honolulu, 1987


Robie, D. *Blood on their banner: nationalist struggles in the South Pacific*, Leichhart, NSW, 1989


**THE INDEPENDENT PACIFIC**


Crocombe, R. & A. Ali (Eds.), *Foreign forces in Pacific politics*, Suva, 1983


Firth, S. (ed.), *Globalisation and Governance in the Pacific Islands*, Canberra, 2006


Firth, S., "Review article: the contemporary history of Fiji", *JPH*, vol. 24 (2), 1989: 242-246

Fry, G., "Regionalism and international politics in the South Pacific", *Pacific Affairs*, Fall 1981


Knapman, B. "Aid and the dependent development of Pacific Island States", *JPH*, vol. 21 (3-4), 1986: 139-152


MacQueen, N. "Sharpening the spearhead: Sub-regionalism in Melanesia", *PS*, vol. 12 (2), 1989: 33-52

May, R.J., & M. Spriggs (eds.), *The Bougainville crisis*, Canberra, 1990


Robie, David, *Tu galala: social change in the Pacific*, Wellington, 1992