This course focuses on the biological/physical anthropology of the Pacific and surrounding regions. In addition to examining the biological diversity of Pacific peoples, past and present, this course provides background on evolutionary biology, human ecology, and human adaptability. After reviewing the geography, prehistory, and languages of the Pacific, the course examines several broad themes in Pacific biological anthropological research. The topics that will be explored in this course include: early paradigms; human ecology/adaptability and the “cold adaptation hypothesis”; Polynesian phenotype; evidence for the initial peopling of the Pacific: dental, skeletal and genetic evidence; Lapita skeletal record; ancient DNA; early inhabitants of Australia and Indonesia; health and disease; migration and modernization in the Pacific. More specialized topics will include malaria, kuru in New Guinea, ALS-PD in the Mariana Is., etc.

This is a writing-intensive course with Focus Designation-W, which also fulfills the Biological Science (DB) Diversification Requirement at UHM. Pre-requisite: Anth 215, or consent of Instructor.

Readings: A syllabus (list of readings) will be distributed at the beginning of the course and posted on the web site for this course at:
http://www.anthropology.hawaii.edu/People/Faculty/Pietrusewsky/anth455/
PDF files of all readings will be available throughout the semester.


Map Quiz
Value: 5%
Date: Late January

To facilitate the learning of the geography (including the names of the major island groups) students should obtain a copy of a relatively new edition of a map of the Pacific similar to the one published by the Hawaii Geographic Society. [Usually available at the UH Bookstore] A short quiz that will test your knowledge of the geography of the Pacific will be given during class time. Smaller (8.5 X 11) versions of these maps will be distributed during class.

Mid-Term Exam:
Value: 20%
Due Date: Late February
The mid-term will cover readings and lecture material in the first half of the course. The format will be a mixture of short definition and short essay questions. A study guide will be
Assignment One: Annotated Bibliography
Value: 10%
Due Date: mid-March

After consulting with the instructor, students will develop an annotated bibliography on a research topic that is relevant to the biological anthropology of the Pacific. A list of possible topics will be distributed early in the course. A minimum of 8-10 references (journal articles, book chapters, books etc.) is required for this assignment; the works selected should include both important theoretical works as well as case studies. Provide comments and notes on how each work listed in the bibliography pertains to your topic. In addition to the individual annotations (250-300 words each), a 1-2 page (500 words max.) general review that includes what you found in the literature and how this relates to your chosen topic must be included. Consult the guidelines on referencing styles and how to prepare an annotated bibliography that will be distributed.

Oral presentation
Value: 10%
Due Date: TBA

Students will be expected to give a 15-minute oral presentation (using PowerPoint) of their term paper topic during the last few meetings of this course.

Assignment Two: Research Paper
Value: 30%
Word limit: 2500 [5000 words for graduate students]
Due date: late April

This paper should develop from your annotated bibliography (the grade you receive will reflect this). The research paper will be an extension of what you learned in reviewing the literature pertinent to your chosen topic in physical/biological anthropology in the Pacific. Begin your research paper with a general question or set of related questions that you want to address. Refer to the distributed guidelines on research paper writing and referencing styles and be consistent in your use of these guidelines. Include a full bibliography.

Final Exam
Value: 25%
Due date: TBA

The final written exam will cover readings and lecture material since the mid-term exam. The format will be a mixture of short definition and short essay questions. A study guide will be issued prior to this exam.

Final Grade for Course: Map quiz (5%); annotated bibliography (10%); mid-term (30%); term paper (25%); oral presentation (10%); and final exam (25%).

Prerequisite: Students taking this course should have taken Introduction to Physical Anthropology (Anth 215) or its equivalent.