Pacific Island Cultures (ANTH 350)  
FALL 2010

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Office Hrs: by appointment only

Description

Considered the largest geographical feature on earth, the Pacific Ocean displays an extraordinary human and cultural diversity. The Pacific has represented an object of European interest and fantasies since the European first age of discovery of the Oceanic region. In the popular imagination, the islands of the South Pacific conjure exotic images both serene and savage. “Islands of love.” Mysterious rituals. Cannibals stories. “Disappearing’ cultures.” Threatened or “collapsed” ecologies. These fantasies continue to reflect Western desires and discourses but have very little to do with how most Pacific Islanders live their lives today.

Our focus is to analyze and discuss the contemporary reality, the entanglement of “tradition” and “modernity” in the Pacific. 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.

In almost all respects—religious, political, and cultural—Pacific islanders’ identities have been evolving and taking new forms as they become increasingly caught up in globalizing forces. Today, islanders are not only faced with the necessity of defining and articulating “national” identities in multiethnic and multicultural nation states, they are also faced with redefining their cultural and social identities as their lives and communities are barraged by change (Lockwood 2004: 31).

Our cultural identities are always in a state of becoming, a journey in which we never arrive; who we are is not a rock that it passed on from generation to generation, fixed and unchanging. Cultural identity is a process (Hereniko 1997: 428-429).
Course material
All the literature listed in the syllabus as required reading for each session is posted in the course Resources. In addition, each week’s topic will be accompanied by a PowerPoint—converted into PDF file—which may contain (required) additional textual information.

Class participation
Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as Forums or eventual conference sessions. The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper “netiquette” when interacting with class members and the professor.

Policy on Laulima unavailability or other technical difficulties
In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the “Overview of Laulima” file posted on class Resources.
The Outreach College is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the ITS Help Desk:
Ph. +1-808-956-8883, Email: help@hawaii.edu

Communications
This online course has built-in communication tools which will be used for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email may also be used during the semester.
Interaction with the Instructor: the instructor will communicate with students mainly using the Laulima built-in tools. Students may send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using the built-in communication tool. The instructor will reply to student personal messages or discussion board messages within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Course requirements and evaluation
News Discussion (16%)
Panel Discussion (14%)
Film Review (10%)
4 Quizzes (15% each) (60%)
100%
Online quizzes
The 4 quizzes are not multiple-choice formatted. All the questions in form of short essays will be based on the material posted online. The Final Exam will be just your last quiz. Each quiz is timed (1:15) and can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window (Monday - Sunday). Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you begin.

Film review
Pacific Island cultures are well renown for a distinctive and powerful visual elaboration in traditional art, ritual performances and aesthetics. Hence, each student will have to watch one film/video related to the course topics. The films listed in the syllabus are only a partial list of the videos available at the AV/Wong Audiovisual Center at the Sinclair Library of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, designed to match the weekly topic. Students are encouraged to select from this list; however, given the nature of this distant learning courses, previous instructor's approval they are free to choose a film or video from other sources. The Film review (min. two pages, double space) is due anytime before TBA.

Panel Discussions
Students will have to prepare one written report (min. three pages, double space, plus bibliography) based on topics presented in the course material.
1. Choose one Panel Discussion (PD) from the syllabus.
2. Review all the material related to the topic. It is also highly recommended to read some additional material using the references cited at the end of the readings.
3. Develop a clearly discernible thesis; do not merely summarize the readings.
4. Email me the paper, or if you prefer leave it in your Drop Box.
5. Due dates: PD#1 not later than TBA
   PD#2 not later than TBA
   PD#3 not later than TBA
   PD#4 not later than TBA

News discussion
Each Monday, a news story will be posted from the Pacific Islands Report (http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport) provided by the East-West Center’s Pacific Islands Development Program. Each member of the class must post a (minimum) two paragraph comment on the Forums section within 7 days (Mon-Sun). After 7 days, the responses will be graded, the Forum will be locked, and no more postings will be accepted.

Extra credits
Extra credits are not normally available in this course.
I. INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction
   Borofsky, “Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific?” (41-58)
   Suggested Film Then There Were None (27min)

2. Re-Imagining the Pacific
   Hau’ofa, “The Ocean in Us” (113-131)
   Hereniko, “Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism” (78-91)
   Suggested Film Pear la ma ‘on maf (The Land Has Eyes) (87min)

3. Voyaging and Navigating the Pacific
   Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times” (3-28)
   Finney, “The Other One-Third of the Globe” (273-297)
   Suggested Film Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey (60min)

   Panel Discussion #1
   Was Polynesian voyaging and island settlement partially “accidental”?

4. Europeans in Hawai’i and the Pacific
   Hempenstall, “Imperial Manoeuvres” (29-39)
   Strathern, “European Contact” (121-130)
   Suggested Film The Transformed Isle Barbarism to Christianity (30min)

   QUIZ 1

II. INDIGENOUS COSMOS, WESTERN SPECTERS

5. Ancestors, Chiefs and Power
   Lindstrom, “Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava” (119-174)
   Marcus, “Chieftainship” (175-209)
   Suggested Film Kawelka: Ongka’s Big Moka (52min)

   Kava: The Drink of the Gods (90min)
Art and Aesthetics
Thomas, “Introduction” (9-36)
D’Alleva, “Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art” (149-159)
**Suggested Film** Malagan Labadama: A Tribute to Buk-Buk (58min)

Panel Discussion #2
Should indigenous art remain more “traditional”?

Body and Society
Becker, “Disclosure and Exposure: The Body and Its Secrets Revealed” (85-103)
Herdt, “Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation” (44-98)
**Suggested Films** Guardians of the Flutes (50min) Paradise Bent: Boys will be Girls in Samoa (50min)

QUIZ 2

III. COLONIZATION & RESISTANCE

Colonial Engagements
Thomas, “Colonial Conversions: Difference, Hierarchy and History in Early Twentieth-Century Evangelical Propaganda” (231-246)
Davidson, “The Pacific Is No Longer a Mission Field? Conversion in the South Pacific in the Twentieth Century” (133-153)
**Suggested Film** The Last Magician (51min)

Panel Discussion #3
Does colonialism (and neo-colonialism) inevitably set up a dependence based relationship between natives and non natives?

War and Cargo
Lindstrom and White, “War Stories” (3-40)
Kahn “Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations” (285-306)
**Suggested Films** John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders (28min) Radio Bikini (56min)
IV. DECOLONIZATION & MODERNIZATION

10 Sorrow and Money
Akin and Robbins, “Cash and Shell Money in Kwaio, Solomon Islands” (103-130)
Macintyre and Foale, “Global Imperatives and Local Desires: Competing
Economic and Environmental Interests in Melanesian Communities” (149-164)
Suggested Films The Coconut Revolution (50min)
Mountains of Gold: The People of Porgera (52min)

11 Law and Regionalism
Scaglion, “Legal Pluralism in Pacific Island Societies” (86-101)
Kaplan, “Fiji’s Coups: the Politics of Representation and the Representation of
Politics” (72-85)
Suggested Film A Race for Rights (53min)

QUIZ 3

V. TOURISM & COMMODIFICATION

12 Tourism and Native Hawaiians
Linnekin, “Consuming Cultures: Tourism and the Commoditization of Cultural
Identity in the Island Pacific” (215-250)
Trask, “Lovely Hula Hands: Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian
Culture” (179-197)
Suggested Film Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency
(36min)

13 Staged Authenticities
Stanley “Ethnographic Theme Parks: The Emergence of a Global Paradigm” (35-
84)
Silverman, “Cannibalizing, Commodifying or Creating Culture? Power and Art in
Sepik River Tourism” (339-357)
Suggested Films Cannibal Tours (77min)
Welcome to Polynesia! (54min)

Panel Discussion #4
Does tourism inevitably set up a hierarchical economically based
relationship between guests and hosts?
## VI. GLOBAL REALITIES

### 14 Pacific Transnationalism

Lee, “All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism” (133-48)
Macpherson, “Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society” (165-181)

**Suggested Films** *The New Americans: Polynesians* (29min)
* Tatau: what one must do* (26min)

### 15 Urban Dilemmas

Marshall, “Market Highs: Alcohol, Drugs and the Global Economy in Oceania” (200-221)

**Suggested Films** *Cowboy & Maria in Town* (59min)
* Kilim Taem* (25min)

### 16 Indigenous Media

Christen, “Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons” (315-345)
Hennessy, “*I t u v a t u v a Ni Vakadike E Sawau*. The Sawau Project” (90-92)

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**QUIZ 4**
**Readings**

Akin, David, and Joel Robbins  

Becker, Anne E.  

Borofsky, Robert  

Christen, Kimberly  

D'Alleva, Anne  

Davidson, Allan  

Finney, Ben  

Hau'o'a, Epeli  

Hempenstall, Peter  

Hennessy, Kate  

Herdt, Gilbert H.

Hereniko, Vilsoni

Kahn, Miriam

Kaplan, Martha

Kiste, Robert

Lee, Helen Morton

Lindstrom, Lamont

Lindstrom, Lamont, and Geoffrey M. White

Linnekin, Jocelyn

Macpherson, Cluny

Marcus, George

Marshall, Mac

Mitchell, Jean

Scaglion, Richard

Silverman, Eric Kline

Stanley, Nick

Strathern, Andrew

Thomas, Nicholas

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Trask, Haunani-Kay

White, Geoffrey M., and Ty P. Kawika Tengan
Films

Bain, Carol, Edward G. Coll, and Sabra Kauka
  1994  Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency. Puhi, Hawaii: Surfing Education
  Association and Kaua’i Worldwide Communications.
  VIDEOTAPE 10538

Cattoni, Jan, Anthony Mullins, and Randall Wood
  VIDEOTAPE 18783

Croall, Heather, Eva Wunderman, and Alison Elder
  VIDEOTAPE 17766

Davis, John
  1993  Mountains of Gold: the People of Porgera. New York, NY: Davis Film and Video,
  distributed by Filmmakers Library.
  VIDEOTAPE 11823

Evenari, Gail, et al.
  1999  Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey. [Charlotte, N.C.]: Maiden Voyage Productions,
  distributed by PBS Home Video.
  VIDEOTAPE 16378

Hereniko, Vilsoni, and Jeannette Paulson Hereniko
  2006  Pear ta ma ’on maf (The Land Has Eyes). Honolulu: Te Maka Productions.
  DVD 3202

Holloway, Tracey, and Liz Thompson
  1994  The Last Magician. Lindfield, N.S.W.: Film Australia.
  VIDEOTAPE 19024

Kapu’uwailani-Lindsey, Elizabeth
  DVD 4702

Lipp, Thorolf, Tony Martin, and Seona Smiles
  1998  Kava: The Drink of the Gods. Suva, Fiji Islands, Bayreuth, Germany: produced by the
  Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, distributed by TMT Film.
  VIDEOTAPE 17039
McLaren, Les, and Annie Stiven
VIDEO TAPE 8674

Nairn, Charlie, et al.
DVD 1483

Nicholson, R. C., and Australian Religious Film Society.
1988 The Transformed Isle Barbarism to Christianity: a genuine portrayal of yesterday and today, the story of fifteen years among the head hunters of the island of Vella Lavel. Sydney: Australian Religious Film Society.
VIDEO TAPE 1940

O'Rourke, Dennis
VIDEO TAPE 1296

Owen, Chris
VIDEO TAPE 14788

Reddish, Paul
VIDEO TAPE 12405

Rotheroe, Dom, Darren Bender, and Mike Chamberlain
VIDEO TAPE 20942

Sillers, Ron, and Peter Benoit
VIDEO TAPE 9747

Stone, Robert, et al.
DVD 1856
Thomas, Larry
VIDEOTAPE 19892

Tristram, John, I. James Wilson, and Nadine Amadio
Princeton, NJ: Juniper Films, Special Broadcasting Service (Australia), Discovery Channel (Firm),
Dandelion Distribution, Films for the Humanities.
VIDEOTAPE 12376

Van der Ryn, Micah
1997 Tatau: What One Must Do. Honolulu, HI: Pacific Islanders in Communications, Flying
Fox Films.
DVD 3171

Yanehiro, Jan, et al.
Telecommunications Association.
VIDEOTAPE 11821