Anthropology 323 (Fall 2017):
Pacific Islands Archaeology

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Seth Quintus
LECTURE: TR 1:30-2:45 PM, KUY 309
OFFICE: 201 Dean Hall
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OFFICE HOURS: M 1:00-4:00 P.M.
READINGS: .pdf documents listed below and uploaded onto Laulima

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to archaeological research in Oceania, a region including the islands of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. The early exploration of this oceanic world, and the ability of Pacific Islanders to survive and flourish on remote, environmentally diverse landforms, represents a remarkable achievement in the history of humanity. We will examine evidence for systematic long-distance voyaging, the human colonization of previously uninhabited landscapes, and the independent evolution of cultures descended from a common ancestral heritage. The central questions we address are: Who are the native peoples of Oceania? Where did they originate? How and when did they discover and settle the Pacific Islands? In addressing these questions we examine Native Hawaiian culture within the context of Pacific Island cultures. We welcome all students with interests in Oceania, both undergraduates and graduates. A background in archaeology is helpful but not a prerequisite.

This subject matter falls within the discipline of anthropology, which is a comparative and holistic approach to the study of humanity. That is, anthropologists are interested in humans in their totality: as biological and social beings, past and present, in our society and in societies vastly different. The societies and cultures of the Pacific islands have long been critical areas for anthropological study, including the development of anthropological theory. The comparative isolation of islands, along with their small size and distinct environmental boundaries, makes them the closest thing we have to “model systems” for the study of humans.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By taking this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the origins of Pacific Islanders.
2. Articulate how Hawai‘i fits within the wider Pacific Islands cultural area.
3. Come to an appreciation of Pacific Islands archaeological heritage, as well as the interface between scientific research and cultural patrimony.
4. Be able to understand, articulate, and evaluate scientific hypotheses based on archaeological evidence.
5. Be able to plan, research, and write a well-organized scholarly paper.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two exams, a mid-term and a final, will be given on course readings, lecture material, guest lectures, and any other assigned materials as well as one quiz on the geography of the region. Weekly readings will be summarized by a student in both oral and written form, each student presenting once during the semester, before each lecture. In addition, students must write a term paper on a subject covered in the course. Papers will be 2500 words for undergraduates and 5000 words for graduates. A handout on term-paper guidelines will be distributed later in the course, and a rough draft is due in the 12th week of the semester with the final version due in the 15th week. The final will be written in the 16th week and will address the place of Hawai‘i and the Pacific in Global archaeology. Graduate students will have one extra assignment to be discussed with the instructor.

Make-up exams will be given at the instructor's discretion—that is, only if circumstances are extraordinary. If a make-up exam is given, it must be taken within one week of the exam date unless circumstances warrant an extension. Students are expected to come to class and will find it very difficult to do well on exams if they have spotty attendance.

Students are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled class activities. Memorization of all information is not expected; however, students are expected to understand how this material is utilized to address relevant questions in archaeology and anthropology more generally. Students will find it very helpful to review their notes frequently. Please ask any questions about the readings or lecture information. It is the student’s responsibility to let the instructor know if he or she does not understand course content.

Grade scales:

Exams 40% (20% each); Draft/Paper 30%; Readings Summary 10%; Geography Quiz 10%; Participation 10%.
A- 90% and above
B- 80-89%
C- 68-79%
D- 56-67%
F- 55 and below

EXPECTATIONS

In taking this class, we enter a contract to treat each other with professional respect. This means arriving to class on time, attending class regularly, and turning in assignments by their due dates. The course will follow the schedule in this syllabus; changes to the syllabus will involve advance notice. If you have any concerns, please talk to the instructor as far in advance as possible to alleviate any problems down the road.

Finally, as members of the University of Hawai‘i academic community, we must uphold certain standards of conduct. Note that the University of Hawai‘i regards acts of academic dishonesty
such as plagiarism as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. Students caught using another student’s work as their own or copying and submitting text without acknowledging the source are plagiarizing. Plagiarism is a serious breach of the contract between students and teachers. If I find that you have willfully plagiarized someone else’s words (or ideas), I will fail you for the course. The university will enforce the Policy on Academic Integrity according to the University of Hawaii’s Code of Conduct

http://www.studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/system_scc.php

If you have any questions about how to best avoid plagiarism, please discuss these with me. Most problems with plagiarism result from the student not fully understanding that when they use someone else’s material it must be adequately cited.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the KOKUA Program at 956-7511, Queen Lili‘uokalani Center 013. After signing up with KOKUA, the student may or may not additionally choose to identify herself or himself to the instructor.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

A course reading schedule is presented below. This is a tentative schedule and may be subject to modification as the course progresses. Please have the readings completed before coming to class; it will be of great help in understanding the course material. Lectures and discussions on any given day may vary considerably from the designated reading topic. Activities in the classroom are not replications of reading material but separate sources of information. Students should be able to use material they have read to better understand content discussed in the classroom.

You will find it very helpful to review your notes frequently. If you have any questions about the readings or lecture information, please ask; either raise questions in class or come to see me during my office hours. It is your responsibility to let me know if you do not understand something.

**Week 1**
Introduction to the Course

Geography of Oceania

**Week 2**
Linguistic and Biological Variability
Week 3
The Earliest Settlement of Oceania

Early Holocene Developments in ISEA and Melanesia

Week 4
Voyaging and Expansion into Remote Oceania
-- Irwin, G., S. Bickler, and P. Quirke. 1990. Voyaging by canoe and computer: experiments in the settlement of the Pacific Ocean. Antiquity 64:34-50

What is Lapita?

Week 5
Variation in Lapita

The Polynesian Homeland

Week 6
Ethnogenesis in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa

Colonization of Micronesia

Week 7
Colonization of East Polynesia
Pacific Islands Archaeology

Human Impacts on Island Environments: Transported Landscapes

**Week 8**
Human–Environment Interaction in Island Environments: Landscape Evolution

Mid-term Exam

**Week 9**
Writing your Research Paper

Cultural Adaptation and the Development of Socially Complex Societies

**Week 10**
Political Complexity in Melanesia: Beyond Big Men and Chiefs

Atoll Living: Making Ends Meet in Marginal Environments

**Week 11**
Trade, Exchange, and Landscape Change in Micronesia

Tonga and Samoa in Late Prehistory

**Week 12**
Tikopia and other Polynesian Outliers
Variation in New Zealand

**Week 13**
Interaction of Development in Central East Polynesia

The Curious Case of Rapa Nui

**Week 14**
Hawaiian Settlement and Expansion

**NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING**

**Week 15**
Biocomplexity and State Level Societies in Hawaii

The Archaeology of History in Oceania

**Week 16**
The Place of Hawai‘i and the Pacific in Global Archaeology