Pacific Island Cultures
ANTH 350

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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 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).
Upon successful completion of ANTH 313, the student should be able to:

1. **Explain** how anthropologists study economic, kinship, political, religious systems, personality development and cultural change, and ethics.
2. **Differentiate** cross-cultural differences and similarities in multi-cultural societies.
3. **Describe** patterns of culture in Asia and the Pacific Island areas and be able to discuss culture, adaptation, language, political organization or society in Asian and Pacific Island regions.
4. **Use** anthropological perspectives on work to explore career interests in health, human services, education and other fields.
5. **Identify** cross-cultural issues and develop a research paper using literature sources and interviews.
6. **Express** and discuss research results in writing.
7. **Identify** the major theoretical orientations in cultural anthropology and understand how these orientations shape the fieldwork experience.
8. **Develop** a concept of visual culture that will be useful in analyzing cross-cultural issues in Hawaii, the United States and the world.
9. **Apply** visual cultural knowledge to examine contemporary American issues.
10. **Employ** anthropological methodology in their research proposals.

**Course material**

All the readings listed in the syllabus for each session will be posted in Resources. In addition, each week’s topic will be accompanied by a PowerPoint—converted into PDF file—which may contain (required) additional textual information. **Exams can be taken from any computer without visiting any test proctoring services.**

**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 "Intro to Laulima" file posted on "Announcements."

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 problem using the "Request Assistance" link** at the bottom of any page in Laulima; help@hawaii.edu is for general ITS Help Desk and it is more useful for general technical questions. In both cases, you should immediately send a copy of your report to me using Laulima, or directly at guido@hawaii.edu.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly PIR Blogs (6x15pts each)</td>
<td>90pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Report</td>
<td>60pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Review</td>
<td>50pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2x100pts each)</td>
<td>200pts</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>400pts</strong></td>
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PIR Blogs
Each Monday, a news story taken from the Pacific Islands Report will be posted on FORUMS (http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport). Each member of the class must post a (minimum) three paragraph comment. After 7 days, on Sunday at midnight the FORUM will be automatically locked, and no more postings will be accepted.

Exams
The 2 quizzes are not multiple-choice formatted. All the questions in form of short essays will be based on the material posted online. Each quiz is timed (1:15) and can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window (Mon 7:30am - Sunday 11:59PM). Exams can be taken from any computer without visiting any test proctoring services.

Film review
Choose one film from those listed in the syllabus.
1. Develop a clearly discernible thesis; do not merely summarize the film;
2. Cite a concept, theory, or author from the course;
3. Min. 4 pages, double space, including references;
4. Submit it using your Laulima Drop Box (no emails);
5. Due TBA 5 point deduction per day for late submissions.
All films are in the weekly folders on Laulima and have a built-in link.

Written Report
Students will have to prepare one written report based on topics presented in the course material.
1. Choose one of topic from the weekly topics.
2. Review all the material related to the topic. It is also recommended to read some additional material perhaps using the references cited at the end of each reading.
3. Develop a clearly discernible thesis; do not merely summarize the readings (e.g.:
   Why Polynesian voyaging and island settlement was not “accidental”? Should indigenous art remain more “traditional”? Does tourism inevitably set up a hierarchical economically based relationship between tourists and native communities? Why kava drinking is an important social practice in Oceania?)
4. Min. 4 pages, double space, including bibliography.
5. Submit it using your Laulima Drop Box (no emails).
6. Due: TBA.
Schedule

1

**Hawai‘i and the Pacific**
Borofsky, “Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific?” (41-58)

**Re-imagining the Pacific**
Hau’ofa, “The Ocean in Us” (113-131)
Hereniko, “Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism” (78-91)

Film  *Pear ta ma ‘on maf (The Land Has Eyes)* *(Laulima)*

PIR Blog #1

2

**Voyaging the Pacific**
Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times” (3-28)
Finney, “The Other One-Third of the Globe” (273-297)

**Europeans in Hawai‘i and the Pacific**
Hempenstall, “Imperial Manoeuvres” (29-39)
Strathern, “European Contact” (121-130)

Film  *Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey* *(iTunesU)*

PIR Blog #2

3

**Ancestors, Chiefs and Power**
Lindstrom, “Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava” (119-174)
Marcus, “Chieftainship” (175-209)

**Art and Aesthetics**
Thomas, “Introduction” (9-36)
D’Alleva, “Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art” (149-159)
**Film**  *Mystery Easter Island* (iTunesU)

**PIR Blog #3**

**PIR Blog #4**

**Film**  *John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders* (Laulima)

**PIR Blog #5**

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**4**

**Body and Society**

Becker, “Disclosure and Exposure: The Body and Its Secrets Revealed” (85-103)
Herdt, “Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation” (44-98)

**War and Cargo**

Lindstrom and White, “War Stories” (3-40)
Kahn “Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations” (285-306)

**Film**  *John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders* (Laulima)

**PIR Blog #4**

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**5**

**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)

**Tourism**

Linnekin, “Consuming Cultures: Tourism and the Commoditization of Cultural Identity in the Island Pacific” (215-250)
Stanley “Ethnographic Theme Parks: The Emergence of a Global Paradigm” (35-84)

**Film**  *Cannibal Tours* (iTunesU)

**PIR Blog #5**

**WRITTEN REPORT & FILM REVIEW**
Pacific Transnationalism
Lee, “All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism” (133-48)
Macpherson, “Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society” (165-181)

Urban Dilemmas
Marshall, “Market Highs: Alcohol, Drugs and the Global Economy in Oceania” (200-221)
Mitchell, “‘Killing Time’ in a Postcolonial Town: Young People and Settlements in Port Vila, Vanuatu” (358-376)

Film  Tatau: What One Must Do (iTunesU)

ATTENTION! THIS LAST WEEK IS SHORTER
YOUR LAST EXAM WILL BE OPEN FROM TBA TILL TBA