Pacific Island Cultures
ANTH 350
FALL 2015

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Office Hrs: F 8:30-9:30

Class hours: TR 9:00-10:15
Classroom: KUY 209

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).
Course Requirements and Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (100pts each)</td>
<td>(300 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Weekly Reflections (15pts each)</td>
<td>(150 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 PIR Blogs (15pts each)</td>
<td>(225 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>(50 pts)</td>
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<td><strong>725 pts</strong></td>
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Class attendance & participation

Regular class attendance is a course requirement. In addition to video programs, additional material that is not covered in the textbook will be presented in PowerPoint format during the lectures. Students will be responsible for all changes to the course requirements that may be announced in class. This course relies heavily on lectures and in-class discussions and exercises. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from other students about what you missed.

Exams

Three short essay exams will be given at the end of each main section of the course. All exams are based on your reading, lectures, and video programs. Your Final Exam will just be your last exam (Exam #3). Make up exams will only be given to students who miss an exam due to extenuating circumstances.

Weekly Reflections (in-class)

Each Thursday a video will be screened to generate questions and comments on the weekly topic. Students will have 15 minutes to write a reflection paper (3 paragraphs 5 sentences each). The assignment is open notes and “open dialogue”. These in-class activities are designed to sharpen your grasp of the material through your engagement with it as well with your classmates, but their effectiveness in this regard depends on your active participation and preparation which includes having read the day’s assignments and pay attention to the videos. This is an in-class assignment only and no make up(s) are available.

PIR Blog (online)

Each week a discussion topic will be posted on Forums/Laulima. Each member of the class must post a (minimum) three paragraph comment. After 7 days the Discussion will be automatically locked, and no more postings will be accepted.

Group Project

All the information regarding your Group Project is available on Laulima/Resources.

Extra Credit

Aiming for a higher grade? Enroll and complete the Native Hawaiian Initiative and get 50pts towards your Final Grade! All the information regarding your Extra Credit is available on Laulima/Resources.
Schedule

Week

1 
AUG 25—27

**Introduction: Hawai‘i and the Pacific**


Borofsky, “Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific?” (41-58)

Film *Then There Were None*

2 
SEP 01—03

**Re-Imagining the Pacific**

Hau‘ofa, “The Ocean in Us” (113-131)

Hereniko, “Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism” (78-91)

Film *The Land Has Eyes*

3 
SEP 08—10

**Voyaging and Navigating the Pacific**

Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times” (3-28)

Finney, “The Other One-Third of the Globe” (273-297)

Film *Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey*
4 Europeans in Hawai‘i and the Pacific
SEP 15—17
Hempenstall, “Imperial Manoeuvres” (29-39)
Strathern, “European Contact” (121-130)

PIR Blog #3

EXAM 1

5 Ancestors, Chiefs and Power
SEP 22—24
Lindstrom, “Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava” (119-174)
Marcus, “Chieftainship” (175-209)
Film  Kawelka: Ongka’s Big Moka

PIR Blog #4

6 Art and Aesthetics
SEP 29—OCT 01
Thomas, “Introduction” (9-36)
D'Alleva, “Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art” (149-159)
Film  Malagan Labadama: A Tribute to Buk-Buk

PIR Blog #5
7
OCT 06—08

**Body and Society**

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

**Film**  
*Guardians of the Flutes*

- PIR Blog #6

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8
OCT 13—15

**War and Cargo**

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

- PIR Blog #7

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9
OCT 20—22

**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)

**Film**  
*The Coconut Revolution*

- PIR Blog #8
Hosts and Guests
OCT 27—29
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*

Pacific Transnationalism
NOV 03—05
Lee, “All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism” (133-48)
Macpherson, “Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society” (165-181)
Film *Tatau: What One Must Do*

Urban Dilemmas
NOV 10—12
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 *Kilim Taem*
Indigenous Media

NOV 17—19

Christen, “Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons” (315-345)
Hennessy, “A Ituvatuva Ni Vakadidike E Sawau. The Sawau Project” (90-92)

Film Moana: The Rising of the Sea

PIR Blog #12

NOV 24

Course Review

26 Holiday: Thanksgiving Day

PIR Blog #13

DEC 01—03

Group Presentations

PIR Blog #14

DEC 08—10

Group Presentations

PIR Blog #15

DEC 15 9:45 – 11:45 am

EXAM 3