

**SYLLABUS: PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF OCEANIA
ANT 3930 Section 3222**

Class meeting times: Tuesday 1:55-3:50, Thursday 1:55-2:45

Classroom: Black Hall 315

Class website: on E-learning (via myUFL)

Instructor: Ryan Peseckas

Office: Turlington 1350C

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm, Thursday 3-4 pm

Email: sakcesep@ufl.edu

INTRODUCTION: The islands of the Pacific, also known as Oceania, bring to mind images of palm-fringed beaches and exotic customs. However, a closer look at life in the Pacific reveals a much more complex picture that is not always as simple, idyllic, and one-dimensional as the stereotype suggests.

This course is a survey of the peoples of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, where they originated, and how they have responded to the challenges of natural and human events through time. Although much of the course will be concerned with 'traditional' societies as we suppose they existed before contact with Europeans, the entire span of human inhabitation of the Pacific will be covered; from the epic canoe voyages of the ancient navigators right up to the coups, cyclones and cruise ships of today's news.

In keeping with the four-field anthropological approach, perspectives from ethnology, linguistics, archaeology, as well as biological anthropology will be used to flesh out our understanding of the region. The course will incorporate readings, films, lectures and class discussion. Although we will be focusing on a specific region of the world, this course will contribute to a deeper understanding of culture in general by explaining how factors such as ecology, demography, migration, and the global economy shape life on even the most remote islands.

By the end of the course, you will have gained a deeper understanding of:

- The diversity of Pacific peoples and cultures, the geography and history of the region, and contemporary issues facing its people.
- The complexity of the underlying causes of socio-cultural behavior, and some theories of socio-cultural causality relating to Pacific peoples.
- What anthropology is, what anthropologists do, and how anthropology contributes to our understanding of the world.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: Laptops, cell phones, MP3 players, and other electronics should not be used during class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism or any other form of cheating is subject to university policies listed at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academichonestystudent.html>.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS: Students requesting special classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor of the course when requesting accommodation.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend as many classes as possible. Attendance and participation are reflected in the final grade you earn (see below).

FLU: Should an outbreak of the flu affect the teaching of courses at the University of Florida, the syllabus, use of internet, exams, and attendance will be adapted to meet the challenges of widespread outbreaks of the flu. I will contact all students in this class during the fall should the need arise to change how the course proceeds.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up quizzes and exams may be arranged for excused absences. Late assignments (papers) will have 3% deducted from the final score for each day (24 hours) they are late.

GRADING: A final letter grade will be assigned to you based upon the grade percentage you earn over the course of the semester.

| F | D- | D | D+ | C- | C | C+ | B- | B | B+ | A- | A |
|-----|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| <60 | 60- 62.4 | 62.5- 67.4 | 67.5- 69.9 | 70- 72.4 | 72.5- 77.4 | 77.5- 79.9 | 80- 82.4 | 82.5- 87.4 | 87.5- 89.9 | 90- 92.4 | 92.5- 100 |

Your final grade percentage is based on the following criteria:

Attendance/Participation: 10% of final grade. Attendance will be taken during each class period. Perfect attendance for the semester earns 3 bonus points on your final grade percentage!

Quizzes: 10% of final grade (5 quizzes x 2% each) A total of 5 geographic (map) quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

Papers: 30% of final grade (2 papers x 15% each) Two papers will be assigned during the course of the semester, the first due on October 15 and the second on December 3. The topics will be assigned or may be approved with the prior consent of the instructor, *at least 2 weeks before the due date*. Papers should be 4 pages long (without citations), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1" margins.

Midterm exam: 25% of final grade. The midterm exam will cover material from the 1st half of the semester. Exam questions are derived from readings, powerpoints, lectures, and films.

Final exam: 25% of final grade. The final exam will cover material from the 2nd half of the semester. Exam questions are derived from readings, powerpoints, lectures, and films.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kirch, Patrick Vinton

2000 *On the Road of the Winds: An Archaeological History of the Pacific Islands before Human Contact*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Smith, Michael French

2002 *Village on the Edge: Changing Times in Papua New Guinea*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Other assigned readings may be accessed on UF Online Course Reserves at <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/>. A link is provided on the class E-Learning page. Also, the Course Reserves sign-on page can also be accessed via the UF Smathers libraries page (Course Reserves). Your password is your birthday (mmdd).

COURSE SCHEDULE:

| Class Date | Topic covered | Assignment or activity due <u>today</u> | Readings due for <u>next</u> class period |
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| Aug 25 Tues | Course introduction and syllabus | Listing exercise (in class) | Furnas, J.C. 1948. <i>Anatomy of Paradise</i> . New York: William Sloane Associates, Inc, pp. 23-31. O'Brien, Patty. 2006. <i>The Pacific Muse: Exotic Femininity and the Colonial Pacific</i> . Seattle: University of Washington Press, pp. 1-16. |
| Aug 27 Thurs | Our perceptions of the Pacific | | ROW Chapter 1 (Introduction) |
| Sept 1 Tues | 4-field anthropology | | ROW Chapter 2 |
| Sept 3 Thurs | Pacific islands as a human environment | | ROW Chapter 3 |
| Sept 8 Tues | Prehistory of 'Old Melanesia' Oceanic Agriculture | Film excerpts: Dani Potatoes Dead Birds Map Quiz 1 | ROW Chapter 4 pp. 85-101 Renfrew, Colin. 2009. <i>Where Bacteria and Languages Concur</i> . <i>Science</i> 323:467-468. |
| Sept 10 Thurs | Lapita I | | Finegan, Edward. 2008. <i>Language: Its Structure and Use</i> . United States: Thomson Wadsworth. Pp. 420-434. Lynch, John, Malcolm Ross and Terry Crowley. 2002. <i>The Oceanic Languages</i> . Curzon: Great Britain. Pp. 1-14. |
| Sept 15 Tues | Oceanic languages | Language activity (in class) | ROW Chapter 4 pp. 101-116 |

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| Sept 17 Thurs | Lapita II | Map Quiz 2 | Oliver, Douglas L. 1989. Native Cultures of the Pacific Islands. University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu, pp. 53-66. Toren, Christina. 1990. Making Sense of Heirarchy. London: Athlone Press, pp. 29-49. |
| Sept 22 Tues | Sex, family and kinship I | | Keesing, Roger M. 1975. Kin Groups and Social Structure. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, pp. 9-20. Schusky, Ernest L. 1965. Manual for Kinship Analysis. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, pp. 24-33. |
| Sept 24 Thurs | Sex, family and kinship II | | Weiner, Annette. 1988. The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, pp. 139-154. |
| Sept 29 Tues | Exchange | | ROW Chapter 5 pp. 117-120, 161-164 ROW Chapter 6 pp. 165-170, 181-182 ROW Ch. 7 pp. 207-219 pp. 238-245 |
| Oct 1 Thurs | Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia after Lapita | Map Quiz 3 | Sahlins, Marshall. 1963. Poor Man, Rich Man, Big Man, Chief: Political Types in Melanesia and Polynesia. Comparative Studies in Society and History 5:285-303. |
| Oct 6 Tues | Social hierarchy | Film: Ongka's Big Moka | ROW Ch. 8 pp. 246-250, 267-275, 283, 289-301 |
| Oct 8 Thurs | Polynesian Chiefdoms | Map Quiz 4 | 'Sorcery on Dobu Island' in Sillitoe, Paul. An Introduction to the Anthropology of Melanesia. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 165-179. Lebot, Vincent, Mark Merlin, and Lamont Lindstrom. 1992. Kava: The Pacific Drug. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 119-121, 141-152. |
| Oct 13 Tues | Ideology | Kava Ceremony | ROW Chapter 9 |
| Oct 15 Thurs | Synthesis and Review | PAPER #1 DUE | Study!!! |
| Oct 20 Tues | | EXAM #1 | |
| Oct 22 Thurs | European Exploration | | Meleisea, Malama and Penelope Schoeffel. 1997. 'Discovering Outsiders' in The Cambridge History of the Pacific Islanders. Cambridge: Cambridge University, pp. 119-151. |

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| Oct 27 Tues | Colonialism I | Film: First Contact | Howe, K.R. 1984. Where the Waves Fall. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp. 109-121. |
| Oct 29 Thurs | Colonialism II | | Lindstrom, Lamont and Geoffrey M. White. 1990. Island Encounters: Black and White Memories of the Pacific War. Washington: Smithsonian, pp. 13-33. |
| Nov 3 Tues | The Second World War in the Pacific | Map Quiz 5 | Alcalay, Glenn. 1984. Maelstrom in the Marshall Islands: The Social Impacts of Nuclear Weapons Testing. In <i>Micronesia as Strategic Colony</i> . C. Lutz, Ed. Cambridge: Cultural Survival, Inc., pp. 25-36. |
| Nov 5 Thurs | Nuclear Testing | | VOE Introduction and Chapter 1 |
| Nov 10 Tues | Independence | Film: Man Without Pigs | VOE Chapter 2 and 3 |
| Nov 12 Thurs | Politics and government | | VOE Chapter 4,5, and 6 |
| Nov 17 Tues | Migration | | VOE Chapter 7 and 8 |
| Nov 19 Thurs | Social issues | | VOE Chapter 9 and 10 |
| Nov 24 Tues | Tourism | Film: Cannibal Tours | VOE Chapter 12, 13 and 14 |
| Nov 26 Thurs | NO CLASS | NO CLASS | NO CLASS |
| Dec 1 Tues | My research | Slide show Earth oven | VOE Chapter 15 and 16 |
| Dec 3 Thurs | Global warming and environmental issues | PAPER #2 DUE | Study!!! |
| Dec 8 Tues | | EXAM #2 | |