

AN 100: CULTURES OF OCEANIA

Inst: Richard Bordner

Off. Hrs.: M,F 9-12, TR 11-1 [or by](#) app't.

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Texts: Sillitoe, Paul 1998. *An Introduction to the Anthropology of Pacific Cultures and Tradition*. London: Cambridge Univ. Press.

O'Meara, Tim 1990. *Samoa: Planters Tradition and Economic Development in Polynesia*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston: Fort Worth.

Marshall, Mac & Leslie. 1990. *Silent Voices Speak: Women and Prohibition in Truk*. Belmont: Wadsworth.

Thomas, Nicholas. 1991. *Engaged Objects: Exchange, Material Culture and Colonialism in the Pacific*. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to the traditional and contemporary cultures of the island Pacific. The major emphasis will be on the Oceanic regions of **Melanesia, Micronesia** and Polynesia, with a very limited amount of **time** on the related area of **Australia**.

The Pacific since European 'discovery' has been a contradiction of images to the West and a backwater of important events - a place with beautiful people, palm trees, sparkling sand and **water**, a veritable Eden, yet also a place of dark disease-infested jungle and cannibals. These **stereotypic** images **tend** to clash both with traditional and modern reality, which is that of. 1) the **major undeveloped resource** base left on the planet; 2) the majority of the world's remaining colonial possessions. The **region has made major** moves towards both independence **and** a developing **sense** of regional and **ethnic identity**, yet is **plagued** by problems of **transportation** costs and small size.

Understanding of this area should be a prerequisite for living in **Hawaii** or **any other** area having contact with Oceania.

Course Objectives: 1) To develop an understanding and awareness of the island Pacific and the peoples that inhabit it;

2) To utilize **anthropological techniques** to **analyze present situations** and **predict future** iii 1 - area along with possible solutions.

Class Grading: 1) Exams= There will be 2 exams in this class, both essay. They will cover **both** the readings and the lectures. They will be worth 50% of your course grade.

2) Research Paper= You will be required to **write** an in-depth **examination** of some aspect of one of the cultures of Oceania. You must **check** with me first on your topic. The **paper must** have a **length** of 8-12 pages text. It will count for 20% of your course grade.

3) Reaction Papers: You will be **expected** to **write** 3 reaction papers during the semester on questions posed in class. These papers should be from 2-5 pages in length. They will count for 20% of the course grade.

4) Class attendance and **participation**= In a class of this type, without a textbook, the lectures provide the majority of general synthesized information. Thus **attendance** is mandatory if you want to pass the class. This is worth 10% of your course grade.

Grading: Exams(3)50%	A=90-100	D=60-69
Research Paper.....20%	B=80-89	F= <60
Part/Attend..... 10 %	C=70-79	
Reaction Papers.....20%		

- Jan.** 19: **Introduction**
 Ass: Read Thomas ch. 1, Sillitoe ch. 1
 21: **Geography** of Oceania
 24: **Prehistory** of Oceania
 26: Video
 28: **Prehistory** of Oceania
 Ass: Read Sillitoe ch. 2-3
 31: **Prehistory** of Oceania
 Ass: Read Thomas ch. Ch. 3
- Feb.** 2: **Western** Contact
 4: History in Melanesia
 Ass: Read Sillitoe Ch. 4, 9, 13
 7: History in Melanesia
 9: **Western** Melanesia
 Ass: Read Thomas ch. 2
 11: Western **Melanesia**
 14: Central Melanesia
 Ass: Read Sillitoe ch 6-7, 11, 14, 15
 16: **Ritual**, symbolism and ancestors in Melanesia
 18: Concepts of time and space in the Pacific
 21: Holiday
 23: Eastern Melanesia
 Ass: Read O'Meara ch. 1-3
 25: Prehistory and **western** contact in **Polynesia**
 28: History in Polynesia
 Ass: Read O'Meara ch. 46
- March** 1: **Central Polynesia**
 3: **Central** Polynesia in **contrast** to 'Aotearoa' & **Hawai'i**
 Ass: Read O'Meara ch. 7-8
 6: **Bapa Nui** and environmental morality tales / Hand out **Mid-Term EXAM**
 8: **Fringe** Polynesia/Hawaii
 Ass: Read Thomas ch 4
 10: Fringe **Polynesia**—**'Aotearoa'**
 13: Fringe **Polynesia**—**Outlying** groups
 15: **Colonialism** and **Post-colonialism** in Melanesia & Polynesia
 Ass: Read Thomas ch. 5
 17: Independence and **survival** in **Melanesia** & Polynesia
 20: Ethnic **identity**, the 'Pacific Way' and politics
 22: Outmigration, **renumeration** and economics in Polynesia
 24: Video
 Ass: Read Marshall ch 1-3
 27-31: **Spring** Recess
- April** 3: Micronesian Prehistory
 5: Micronesian History
 Ass: Read Marshall ch. 46
 7: Micronesian, the Spanish, Germans and Japanese
 10: Micronesian **History**—the postWWII colonial period—the **American Period**
 12: Western Micronesia
- 14: Western Micronesia
 Ass: Read **Marshall** ch. 7-9
 17: **Simulation**—**Micronesia** & dependency
 19: Simulation
 21: Holiday
 24: Central **Micronesia**—**smaller** islands, atolls
 26: **Eastern** Micronesia
 28: Eastern **Micronesia** land vs. water vs. global warming
 28: Nation states in **Micronesia**
- May** 1: Post colonialism and independence in Micronesia
 3: The future options in the **Pacific** / Hand out EXAM 11
 5: **Summary** / Research Paper Due
 8: **EXAM II** due 12:45-2:45