



Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2212G-001
CULTURES OF THE PACIFIC
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022

Classes: Wednesday 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Location: Online / UC-3220

Instructor: Douglas Campbell
Email: dcampb62@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Zoom appointments only

TA: Zsofia Agoston Villalba
Email: zagoston@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBA



CULTURES OF THE PACIFIC

Taking the idea of the Pacific as a starting point this course is an exploration of the diverse ways members of different Pacific societies participate in, and respond to, some of the fundamental issues facing humanity. We will critically investigate the work of anthropologists as well as filmmakers, artists, writers, and pop media producers who turn Pacific peoples into an array of spectacles, dangers, lost and found lives, survivors, victims, warriors, protectors, performers, seers, healers, magicians, consumers, producers, activists, beacons, and whatever else we can imagine. Through selected examples from Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia, this course will reveal how people often understood as peripheral, are at the centre of global processes.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- analyze the underlying assumptions of Western representations of the Pacific
- recognize how Pacific peoples' lives are lived at the intersection of global processes
- interpret anthropological knowledge about Pacific cultures
- gain insights into how Pacific peoples make meaning of their lives and experience
- have an awareness of our mutual struggles for identity and self-determination as contemporaries grounded in local specificities and experience

Note: This PRELIMINARY syllabus will be revised as the course progresses. Readings and media may be updated to reflect current research and happenings. The course schedule may be adjusted to accommodate an online delivery format or to allow us to go where our curiosity takes us.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

| Assignment | Value | Due Date |
|--------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Reading Response Quizzes | 20% | weekly online/in-class |
| Ethnographic Exercise 1 | 15% | February 2 |
| Midterm Test | 20% | February 16 |
| Ethnographic Exercise 2 | 15% | March 23 |
| Final Exam | 30% | Exam Period |

COURSE TEXTS

There are no books or materials to purchase for this course. Readings and lecture presentations will be posted on the course's OWL portal.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lecture # / Date / Topic / Readings and Media

1. JANUARY 12 Online

Topic: **Introduction: Representations**
Readings: Lockwood, The Global Imperative and Pacific Island Societies pp. 7-39
Media: *South Pacific, Dr. Strangelove, Mutiny on the Bounty* (excerpts)



2. JANUARY 19 Online

Topic: **Close Encounters: Tourism**
Readings: Bruner, "Of Cannibals, Tourists and Ethnographers"
Silverman, Cannibalizing, Commodifying or Creating Culture? Power and Art in Sepik River Tourism
Media: *Cannibal Tours*

3. JANUARY 26

Online

Topic: **Reality Comes to Vanuatu**
Readings: Deslisle, Surviving American Imperialism
Rodman and Rodman, To Die on Ambae: On the Possibility of Doing Fieldwork Forever
Troost, Getting Stoned with Savages (Pp. 56 – 67)
Media: *Reality Comes to Vanuatu*

4. FEBRUARY 2

Topic:
Readings:

Online **ETHNOGRAPHIC EXERCISE 1 DUE**

Vanuatu: Magic of Modernity

Mitchell, ‘Operation Restore Public Hope’
Mitchell, “Killing Time” in a Postcolonial
Town: Young People and Settlements in
Port Villa, Vanuatu

Media: *Kilim Taem* (if available)



5. FEBRUARY 9

Topics:
Readings:

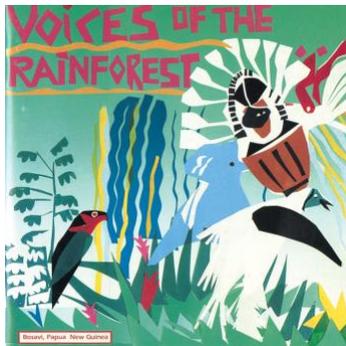
Woman Ikat Raet

Jolly, Woman Ikat Raet Long Human
Raet O No?: Women’s Rights, Human
Rights and Domestic Violence in Vanuatu
Cummings, Looking Good: The Cultural Politics of
the Island Dress for Young Women in Vanuatu

Media: *Wan Naes Wan*

6. FEBRUARY 16

In-Class MIDTERM TEST



7. MARCH 2

Topic: **Reverse Anthropology: Meet the Natives**

Readings: TBA

Media: “Meet The Natives UK Episode 1 Part 1 of 6” (9:42)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1DqarK4NIA>
“Meet The Natives UK Episode 2 Part 6 of 6” (8:36)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6464_HP_mgc
“Meet the Natives UK Episode 3 Part 2 of 6” (8:01)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtSd7qjV3BI>

8. MARCH 9

Topic:
Readings:

Fa’aSamoa: Ideals of gender

Schmidt, Ideals of Gender: Men, Women and Fa’afafine in Fa’aSamoa
Schmidt, Paradise Lost?: Social Change and Fa’afafine in Samoa

Media: *Paradise Bent* <https://archive.org/details/ParadiseBentSamoa>

9. MARCH 16

Topic:
Readings:

Rapa Nui: Questioning Collapse

Hunt, Rethinking the Fall of Easter Island
Errington and Gewertz, Excusing the Haves and Blaming the Have-Nots in the
Telling of History

10. MARCH 23

Topic:
Readings:

ETHNOGRAPHIC EXERCISE 2 DUE

Black Harvest

West, Making the Market: Specialty Coffee, Generational Pitches, and Papua
New Guinea

Media: Henry, ‘Smoke in the Hills, Gunfire in the Valley’
Black Harvest <https://uwo.kanopy.com/video/black-harvest>

11. MARCH 30

- Topic: **No Ordinary Sun**
Readings: [Makhijani](#), Never-Ending Story
[Rosen](#), A Marshallese Security Guard “Talks Story”
Media: [Half Life \(3 excerpts\) Lecture 11 folder on OWL](#)
[Huge Waves and disease turn Marshall Islands into ‘a war zone’](#)
[Statement and poem by Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, Climate Summit 2014](#)
[How the U.S. betrayed the Marshall Islands](#)
[Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: U.S. Territories](#)

12. APRIL 6

- Topic: **Cultures of the Pacific: Reprise**
Readings: [Tingley](#), Secrets of the Wave-Pilots
[Hau'ofa](#), Our Sea of Islands
Media: [Wade Davis TED: The worldwide web of ritual and belief](#) (excerpt)



COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Online / In-Class Reading Response Quizzes

Each week online or during class you will be required to answer a True/False quiz based on the assigned reading(s) for the lecture. Only the top 10 of 12 quizzes will count toward your final grade.

Due: weekly online or in-class; Value: 2% X 10 = 20%

Ethnographic Exercise 1: TMT

Inside the folder “Ethno 1: TMT” on OWL, you will find articles, news links, and a listserv discussion between anthropologists about the ongoing issue of building the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on Mauna Kea, Hawai’i. Using the provided articles, news sources, and listserv discussion, you will summarize what you determine are the relevant details to understand the TMT issue, and respond to the question of whether or not the TMT should be built on Mauna Kea. Do not expand the discussion beyond the local Hawai’ian circumstances and context. This is your interpretation of the issue; take a position. However, your interpretation must be supported by evidence from the provided materials. Additional details, directions on style and citations, and suggestions to guide you in this assignment, will be provided during Lecture 3.

- Length: 1000 words (minimum). See Formatting Writing Assignments below.

Due: February 2; Value 15%

Midterm Test

A mid-term test will be held during our regularly scheduled class period on February 16. To answer exam questions you will be required to use specific examples from course materials. Course materials include all assigned readings and all lecture material including media. Electronic devices will not be allowed during tests and examinations. Details about the exam format will be provided in lecture.

Date: February 16; Value: 20%

Ethnographic Exercise 2: Erromango

Inside the folder “Ethno 2: Erromango” on OWL, you will find two short articles and a 25 minute audio file about two reconciliation ceremonies that took place on the island of Erromango, Vanuatu. For this assignment you are expected to write a response paper based on your interpretation of the dynamics of these two encounters. What are your thoughts and feelings about these reconciliation events? What do you find compelling? Do certain aspects of the history and events described resonate with you, trouble you, puzzle you, or shock you? How does the presentation of these two ceremonies differ between the three sources? Consider the different social actors involved; are you sympathetic, impressed, skeptical, or troubled about their various motivations? See the pdf “Ethnographic 3 – need-to-know” for additional details, directions on style and citations, and suggestions to guide you in this assignment. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided in Lecture 9.

- Length: 1000 words (minimum). See Formatting Writing Assignments below

Due: March 23; Value 15%

Final Exam

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. To answer exam questions you will be required to use specific examples from course materials. Course materials include all assigned readings and all lecture material including films and multi-media. Electronic devices will not be allowed during tests and examinations. Details about the exam format will be provided in lecture.

Date: TBA; Value: 30%

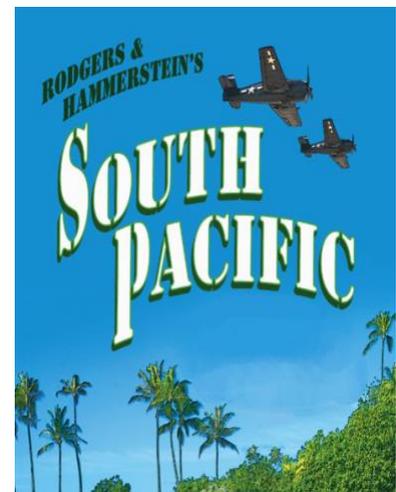
Formatting Writing Assignments:

The three writing assignments for the course will be typed using a 12 point font (Times New Roman), with left/right and top/bottom margins set to 1 inch. The pages will be numbered. The assignments must be spell checked. Put your name, student number, and the title of the assignment on a separate title page. Submit a MS Word document as an attachment to the Assignment feature on OWL.

Handing in Writing Assignments:

All assignments are to be submitted electronically as MS Word documents using the Assignments feature on the course’s OWL site.

Cultures of the Pacific is an essay designated course. In order to pass this course, students must submit both written assignments and receive a passing grade on one.



COURSE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS AND POLICIES:

Late Penalties:

Unless a student receives accommodation through Academic Counselling, late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% of the value of the assignment per day late, for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days. All written assignments are to be submitted electronically through OWL's Assignment feature.

Course Guidelines:

1. Laptops are permitted for note-taking and class participation only. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class. No video or audio recording is permitted during lectures without specific accommodation from Accessible Education. The course instructor reserves the right to ask students whose behaviour is deemed disrespectful to leave the classroom.
2. Please limit email to questions about the course requirements and organization. If you have questions about the course content please make an appointment to see me or Zsofia (via Zoom) during our office hours. Questions about grades must be directed to the course instructor (me), not Zsofia.
3. Please note that language and conduct that is offensive, hateful, abusive and/or exclusive will not be tolerated in this class; this applies to written assignments and exams as well.

COVID-19 Protocols:

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class. Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct. See www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/ for updates.

Please refer to the ANTHRO 2212G-001 Course Outline in the Syllabus folder on the course's OWL site for:

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course; Course Specific Statements and Policies; Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations; Statement on Plagiarism; and Institutional Statements and Policies.

