

ANTHROPOLOGY 48630(001)/58095(002)

CULTURES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Spring 2007
Class Time: TR: 12:30-1:45 PM
Office Hours: TR: 1:45-3:45 PM
Final Exam: 12:45-3 PM; Wed, May 9
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This course will introduce students to the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Islands. The basic text by Strathern, et al. will provide an overview of Pacific geography, prehistory, settlement, and dominant cultural themes. In addition, an ethnography (by Maria Lepowsky) will provide an in-depth look at a community representing one of Oceania's three major culture areas—Melanesia. Grades for undergraduate students will be based on a mid-term (50%) and a **comprehensive** final exam (50%). Each graduate student will also be required to write a term paper; undergraduates may choose to write an optional term paper. For students writing papers, the final grade will be based, in approximately equal proportions, on the paper and each of the two exams. Participation in classroom discussion may also be considered in determination of final grades.

READING LIST

Strathern, Andrew et al.: *Oceania: An Introduction to the Cultures and Identities of Pacific Islanders*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
Lepowsky, Maria: *Fruit of the Motherland: Gender in an Egalitarian Society*. New York: Columbia University Press.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

[Changes in this schedule may be announced in class at any time]

1/16 – 1/18: INTRODUCTION

Reading — *Oceania*: Introduction (Stewart and Strathern, pp. 1-7).

1/23: PACIFIC GEOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

Reading — *Oceania*: Introduction (Stewart and Strathern, pp. 1-7).

Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 100-106).

Oceania: The West Central Pacific (Carucci and Poyer, pp. 182-187).

1/25: PREHISTORY

Reading — *Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 106-108).

Oceania: The West Central Pacific (Carucci and Poyer, pp. 187-196).

1/30-2/1: VOYAGING, NAVIGATION, AND SETTLEMENT

Reading — *Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 108-114).

2/6: POLYNESIA (Geography, Ecology, Subsistence and Expressive Arts)

Reading — *Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 114-117).

2/8: POLYNESIA (Culture and Social Organization)

Reading — *Oceania*: The “Eastern Pacific” (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 117-121).

- 2/13 – 2/15: POLYNESIA (European Contact; Political and Religious History)
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 121-130).
- 2/20 – 2/22: NO CLASS (ASAO Annual Meeting)
- 2/27: POLYNESIA (Contemporary Issues: New Zealand Maori)
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 130-139).
- 3/1: POLYNESIA (Contemporary Issues: Samoa)
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 139-147).
- 3/6 – 3/13: POLYNESIA (Contemporary Issues: Anuta)
Reading — *Oceania: The “Eastern Pacific”* (Feinberg and Macpherson, pp. 147-154).
- 3/15: MID-TERM EXAM
- 3/20: MELANESIA (Introduction)
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 10-14).
- 3/22: MELANESIA (Fiji, New Caledonia, & Vanuatu)
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 15-28).
- 3/27 – 3/29: NO CLASS (Spring Break)
- 4/3: MELANESIA (Solomon Islands)
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 29-39).
- 4/5 – 4/10: MELANESIA (New Guinea)
Reading — *Oceania: The South-West Pacific* (Strathern and Stewart, pp. 40-78).
- 4/12 – 4/24: MELANESIA AND ETHNOGRAPHY OF GENDER
Reading — Lepowsky: *Fruit of the Motherland*.
- 4/26 – 5/3: MICRONESIA
Reading — *Oceania: The West Central Pacific* (Carucci and Poyer, pp. 182-235).