

**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

AN320: PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC

FAÑOMNĀKAN 2025 SYLLABUS

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Office Hours: T 9:30-12:30 T/MW 8:30–9:30 and 3:30–4:00 or by appointment.

CLASS MEETINGS

M/W 4:00-5:20 pm

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

AN320 is a study of the cultural anthropology of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, the most ethnographic diverse region on the planet. Themes may include art, colonialism, ethnocentrism, first contact, gender, inequality, intoxication, power, race relations, religion, ritual, social change, sorcery, and tattooing.

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE

The Pacific stands out as a highly productive region in contemporary anthropology, giving rise to numerous anthropological theories derived from ethnographic investigations. Its dynamic nature, coupled with its cultural distinctiveness and richness, holds a pivotal role in our discipline on a global scale. Delving into a comprehensive understanding of this subject within the context of this course will not only enhance participants' insights into a specific local area but will also foster a broader perspective on overarching anthropological issues.

** LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS

Course SLOs	Program LOs	University ILOs	Core Foundations SLO	Assessment Methods
With successful completion of the course, students will be able to:				
Recognize the rich cultural variety of the Pacific people form a realistic, demystified, point of view.	SLO1. Understand the current issues and debates in the subfields of anthropology. SLO2. Utilized the concept of cultures as a fundamental organizing concept of anthropology;	ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO6. An appreciation of the arts and sciences	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT5. Identifying and avoiding common logical errors. OC1. Developing and presenting material around a central theme. OC2. Using organization and language to effectively present material to an audience. Written Communication (all apply) Information Literacy (all apply)	Assignment 1 Assignment 2 Assignment 3 Assignment 4
Identified the dynamical aspects of oceanic cultures and their constituent images of identity.	SLO2. Utilized the concept of cultures as a fundamental organizing concept of anthropology; SLO3. Articulate knowledge of the history and theories of anthropology; SLO5. Analyze anthropological data in both oral and written forms.	ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO6. An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT3. Synthesizing information on order to examine alternatives and arrive at reasoned conclusions. OC1. Developing and presenting material around a central theme. Written Communication (all apply) Information Literacy (all apply)	Assignment 1 Assignment 2 Assignment 4
Demonstrate proficiency to classified and differentiate the variety of the people of the Pacific focusing in cultural performances and values.	SLO4. Collect anthropological data according to generally accepted professional anthropological practices; SLO5. Analyze anthropological data in both oral and written forms.	ILO1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO2. Mastery of quantitative analysis ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO5. Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT5. Identifying and avoiding common logical errors. QR4. Evaluating quantitative information to draw appropriate conclusions.	Assignment 1 Assignment 3 Assignment 4
Defend a formed opinion in front of problems and future challenges that these cultures are facing	SLO5. Analyze anthropological data in both oral and written forms. SLO1. Understand the current issues and debates in the subfields of anthropology.	ILO1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO2. Mastery of quantitative analysis ILO3. Effective oral and written communication ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO5. Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology	Written Communication (all apply) Information Literacy (all apply) Quantitative Reasoning (all apply)	Assignment 1 Assignment 4

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

All required readings can be found at RFK Memorial Library and will be accessible online through Moodle LMS. Further readings will be provided by the instructor or recommended by the participants during the semester.

Required Reading:

Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: Bess Press, 1913.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The instructional approach will adopt a communicative and collaborative framework aimed at cultivating inductive processes among participants. Utilizing a variety of methods such as lectures, weekly classroom activities, videos, presentations, quizzes, and discussions, the participants will take on an active role in shaping their own learning journey. Should additional resources be required, the instructor will provide complementary readings and video guides. The course structure is flexible, allowing adjustments based on student needs while maintaining a consistently high standard of content quality.

As a 300-level course, active participation in the sessions is imperative. The instructor will lead Units 1 to 8, while Units 9 and 10 will primarily involve participant presentations. Active engagement will be given considerable weight in the final grade assessment. Students are encouraged to express their opinions, raise questions, and present different viewpoints, as this will contribute significantly to the enrichment of the sessions.

AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

During the sessions, films and additional audiovisual material might be provided by the instructor or by the participants.

COURSE UNITS

PART I

1. THE PACIFIC: AN EXOTIC PARADISE?

22-27-29 January

Readings:

Martin, John. *Tonga Islands: William Mariner's Account*. Tonga: Vava'u Press, 1991. Pp. 120-136.

Howe, K. R. *Nature, Culture, and History: The "Knowing" of Oceania*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000. Pp. 5-30

Documentary: Hunters of the South Sea.

2. PRECONTACT HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF OCEANIA

3-5 February

Readings:

Patrick, V. Kirch. "Peopling of the Pacific: A Holistic Anthropological Perspective." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39, no. 1 (2010): 131-48.

Thomas, Frank. "The precontact Period", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 125-137.

Documentary: Papa Mau, The Wayfinder

3. ANTHROPOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC

10-12 February

Readings:

Chappell, David. "The Postcontact Period", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 138-146.

Atienza, David. "CHamoru "Adaptive Resistance" during the Spanish Conquest and Colonization of the Marianas Islands" *Proceedings of the IV Marianas History Conference*, Guam, 2019.

Documentary: Dead Birds

4. PACIFIC LANGUAGES

17-19 February

Readings:

Pawley, Andrew. "Language", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 159-171

Documentary: Tongues of Heaven

5. KINSHIP AND LAND TENURE

24-26 February

Readings:

Goodenough, Ward Hunt. *Property, Kin, and Community on Truk*. London: Yale University Press, 1951. Pp. 29-64.

Lindstrom, Lamont. "Social Relations", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 172-181.

Documentary: Hine Tai'A, Chronicles of A Fishermen Family.

6. RELIGION AND RITUAL IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

5-10 February

Readings:

Barker, John. "Religion", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 214-224.

Atienza, David, and Alexandre Coello de la Rosa. "Death Rituals and Identity in Contemporary Guam (Mariana Islands)." *The Journal of Pacific History* 47, no. 4 (2012): 459–73.

Documentary: Becoming a man in Melanesia.

7. ART, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE

12-24 March

Readings:

Vercoe, Caroline. "Art", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 236-247.

Wolfram, Paul. "Music and Performance", in Rapaport, Moshe, ed. *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Pp. 214-224.

Documentary: Pacific passages

8. CLASS PRESENTATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

26 March

9. PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN THE DIASPORA

31 March

Readings:

Kim D. Butler, 'Defining Diaspora, Refining a Discourse¹.', *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, 10 (2001), 189.

Documentary: Pacific Warriors

10. ASSIGNMENT 1: MIDTERM TEST (2 April 'Test')

11. ASSIGNMENT 2: CLASS PRESENTATIONS

2 April to 12 May

Students will present different peoples/nations from Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia.

12. ASSIGNMENT 3: FINAL BOOK REVIEW PAPER (14 May)

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and active engagement are essential for successfully completing this course. Class attendance may impact the final grade. If a student is absent from classes for three consecutive weeks without providing any explanation, the lecturer may assume they have withdrawn from the course. In case of illness or any other reasons for absence, please email your lecturer. I am understanding and open to communication.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADING

ASSIGNMENT 1: Midterm Test. After Unit 9, a test will be provided based on the readings and lectures.

ASSIGNMENT 2: Class Presentations. Students will present different peoples/nations from Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Final Book Review Paper. Students will elaborate on a book review of an ethnographic monograph based on any Pacific culture.

GRADE ALLOCATION

ASSIGNMENT 1: MIDTERM READING TEST	20%
ASSIGNMENT 2: CLASS PRESENTATIONS	40%
ASSIGNMENT 4: FINAL BOOK REVIEW PAPER	25%
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION	15%

The final grade awarded appears as a letter:

A+	98-100	Outstanding
A	93-97	
A-	90-92	
B+	89-87	Good
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Adequate
C	70-76	
D	60-69	Deficient
F	<60	Failure

ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA

Assignment grades are based upon the student's ability to demonstrate their knowledge of the set literature, films, and lecture materials. Each assignment **MUST** directly relate to the AN320 SPRING course materials (readings and films), or it will be considered **IRRELEVANT** and may receive an "F" grade. Essays must include a list of references discussed in the body of the essay, and these references should be drawn from the course materials. Additional materials discussed outside of the AN320 curriculum may earn some extra credit if deemed appropriate; however, extra materials should not replace but rather accompany a discussion of the readings provided in the course pack.

PLAGIARISM

The UOG Student Handbook strictly prohibits plagiarism. Evidence of plagiarism in any assignment may result in an "F" grade, and a hearing at the Student Discipline Committee.

ADA Accommodation Services

If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the Disability Support Services office to discuss your specific accommodation needs confidentially. You will need to provide me with a Faculty Notification letter from the DSS counselor. If you are not registered, you should do so immediately at the Student Center, Rotunda office #6, ph/TTY: 735-2460, or uogdss@triton.uog.edu to coordinate your accommodation request.