

University Of Western Ontario Department Of Anthropology
ANTHROPOLOGY 2212G/001
January – April 2012

Location: WL 258; Time: Thursday 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Instructor: Douglas Campbell

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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 societies participate in and contest some of the fundamental issues facing humanity. To do so 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, mundanities, activists, beacons and whatever else we can imagine. Central to this course are questions of representation: particularly the way our understandings of Others are mediated through the way representations combine, expand and condense into stories that narrate the contemporary predicaments of people in the Pacific. Such inquiries are inevitably reflexive and will require some critical consideration of our interpretative methodology with its own habits of desire, fascinations and situated knowledges. This course is not a tour of all the peoples of the Pacific and we will discuss why persistent notions of exotica and primitiveness are very problematic.

This initial version of the syllabus has been left intentionally incomplete to give you the chance to provide some input into the direction the course will take.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Ethnographic Assignment	5%	February 9
Midterm Exam	20%	February 16
Discussion Piece	5%	March 8
Research Paper	35%	April 5
Final Exam	35%	April 15 (preliminary schedule)

COURSE TEXTS

You are not required to purchase any books for this course. Readings will be accessed through links posted on the course's WebCT page: <https://owl.uwo.ca/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date / Topic / Readings and Films

1. JANUARY 12

Topic: **Introduction:**
Readings: None
Films: *Reality Comes to Vanuatu* (excerpt)

2. JANUARY 19

Topic: **Close Encounters: Tourism**
Readings: WebCT - Bruner, "Of Cannibals, Tourists and Ethnographers"
WebCT - Lutkehaus and O'Rourke, "Excuse Me, Everything Is Not All Right":
On Ethnography, Film, and Representation: An Interview with
Filmmaker Dennis O'Rourke"
Films: *Cannibal Tours*

3. JANUARY 26

Topic: **Reality Comes to Vanuatu**
Readings: WebCT – Delisle, Surviving American Imperialism
WebCT – Rodman and Rodman, To Die On Ambae
WebCT – Troost, Getting Stoned With Savages pp. 56-67
Films: *Reality Comes to Vanuatu*

5. FEBRUARY 2

Topics: **Vanuatu: Magic of Modernity**
Readings: WebCT – Mitchell, 'Operation Restore Public Hope': Youth and the Magic of
Modernity in Vanuatu
WebCT – Clausen, Turning Back the Clock
Films: *Kilim Taem*

6. FEBRUARY 9

Topics: **ETHNOGRAPHIC EXERCISE DUE**
Woman Ikat Raet
Readings: WebCT - Jolly, Woman Ikat Raet Long Human Raet O NO?: Women's Rights,
Human Rights and Domestic Violence in Vanuatu
WebCT – Butt, "Secret Sex"- Youth, Agency, and Changing Sexual Boundaries
in Highlands Papua
Films: *Wan Naes Wan*

7. FEBRUARY 16

MIDTERM EXAM

8. MARCH 1

Topic:
Readings:
Films:

9. MARCH 8

Topic: **DISCUSSION PAPER DUE**
Readings:
Films:

10. MARCH 15

Topic:
Readings:
Films:

11. MARCH 22

Topic:
Readings:
Films:

12. MARCH 29

Topic:
Readings:
Films:

13. APRIL 6

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Topic:
Readings:

NOTE: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the year. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard.

COURSE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Ethnographic Exercise:

To complete this written assignment you must first watch ONE of the two online videos listed below. For the duration of the video you will be adopting the sensibility of an anthropologist doing fieldwork. While you are watching take fieldnotes. Your notes will become the basis of your written assignment. You should make notes about what you see and hear including both the content and the form of the video. You may also want to make note of how the video makes you feel and how it relates to the themes of the course. After you have finished watching (multiple viewings are fine) you will write an interpretive analysis of your own fieldnotes. This analysis should be reflexive, meaning you are being critical of your initial observations based on the analytical perspective you have gained throughout the course. It is highly recommended that you carry out your fieldwork by yourself so that your observations and your particular experience as a researcher are reflected in your written work. Additional details and suggestions to guide you in this assignment will be provided during lectures.

- Length: 2 pages minimum. 3 pages maximum. Double spaced.
- Put your name, student #, date, course information, and the title of the video you are writing about on a separate title page.
- Write in the first person.
- References are not required
- Avoid reading any reviews

Video 1: “3D Chief” (8:30) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qQZC19IOew>

Video 2: “Meet The Natives” (9:43) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV9GRNKqOKw>

Due: February 9. Value 5%

2. Discussion Piece

You will select ONE of the following readings.

Readings: TBA

Write a two-page opinion piece where you discuss the issues raised in the article from your own perspective. What are your thoughts and feelings about the author's opinion? What arguments are compelling? Do certain aspects of the author's argument resonate with you more than others – if so, what are they? Are these issues important to you – why or why not? Do the social phenomena discussed in the article influence your life or your perspectives on human experiences? Tell us how you feel and what you think!

- Length 2 pages minimum. 3 pages maximum. Double spaced.
- Put your name, student #, date, course information, and the title of the video you are writing about on a separate title page.
- Make it clear you have read and understood the arguments presented by the author. You are responding to the author's ideas about the issues raised in their article.
- You are expressing your own opinions. Write in the first person.
- A bibliography is not necessary.
- You do not have to cite the article in your text *unless* you directly quote. For example:
 1. Wood states, "Vermont has approved civil unions" (135).
 2. I agree that "biological reductions are selective and opportunistic" (Lancaster 128).

Due: March 1. Value 5%.

3. Research Paper

Details for this assignment will be provided as the course progresses.

Due: April 5. Value 35%

Formatting Writing Assignments:

There are three writing assignments for the course: the Ethnographic Exercise, the Discussion Piece, and the Research Paper. All assignments 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. You must provide a cover page with your name, student number, the date, the course information and the title of the assignment. The pages must be stapled together (no loose pages, no folders, no plastic covers).

Handing in Writing Assignments:

You must provide a hard copy to be handed in at the beginning of class. An electronic copy to be submitted through WebCT is only required if requested by the course instructor. Late assignments can be placed in the drop box in the Anthropology Department (outside SSC 3326). The drop box is cleared each morning and papers are date stamped at the start of working hours. Assignments left in our personal mailboxes or under our office doors will not be graded.

Late Penalties:

Note that you must complete the course requirements according to the timeline provided in this document as **no extensions will be granted**. Any assignments submitted after their respective due dates will be subject to a **late penalty of 2% of your final grade per day**, including non-class days, holidays and

weekends. If you do not hand-in written assignments or do not write exams a mark of 0 (zero) will be assigned for that assignment or exam. There will be no make-up assignments or exams.

The only possible exceptions to the rules outlined here are cases in which compelling medical or compassionate grounds can be documented, and where academic accommodation may be allowed. In such cases adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counseling of your home faculty, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Your TAs cannot grant extensions. The University Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness is available at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences:

You must write your essays and assignments in your own words. Whenever you take an idea, passage, or data from another author you must acknowledge your debt to them by using appropriate citation practices. Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and will be treated accordingly. Minimally this means you will receive a 0 (zero) on any assignment that shows evidence of plagiarism and an F in the course. Students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Exams:

There are two exams for this course. A mid-term exam will be held during our regularly scheduled class period on February 16, 2012. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar during the examination period April 14-30, 2012. Assigned readings and all lecture material including films and multi-media are considered fair game for exams. Electronic devices will not be allowed during tests and examinations.

Course Guidelines:

1. All electronic devices such as cell phones must be turned off. The use of recording devices of any kind is not allowed. You may use a laptop computer in class for taking notes only.
2. Please limit email to the course instructor or TA to questions about the course requirements and organization. If you have questions about the course content please come and see us during our office hours.
3. Please note that we will not tolerate language and conduct that is offensive, hateful, abusive and/or exclusive in this class; this applies to written assignments and exams as well.

Academic Accommodation:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Student Resources:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>