

Western Pacific Prehistory

Archaeology 370

Section: E100

Term: 1999 Spring

Instructor: Dr. David Burley

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Evening course, Burnaby campus

Lecture time: Monday 17:30 - 20:20

Discussion Topics: This course provides an overview of Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian prehistory from New Guinea and off-shore islands on the west to Easter Island in the east. Course content includes an introduction to Oceanic environments and geography, an examination of the processes and consequences of exploration and settlement from 40,000 to 1000 years ago, an overview of linguistic and ethnographic variability in the western Pacific and detailed culture historical information for select island groups.

Lecture schedule:

Week 1. Course introduction, Oceanic geography and an overview of Western Pacific prehistory.

Week 2. Map quiz; Pleistocene settlement in Near Oceania and the emergence of Lapita in the far west.

Week 3. The Lapita diaspora and its signature across the Pacific.

Week 4. Map quiz; Oceanic linguistics, biological anthropology and archaeology - different approaches to the same questions.

Week 5. Continued expansion and the settlement of East Polynesia.

Week 6. The economic and socio-political bases of cultural development in Oceania.

Week 7. Mid-term.

Week 8. Melanesian culture history and its expression in New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

Week 9. The settlement of Micronesia and complex polities on Ponape and Yap.

Week 10. Between Melanesia and Polynesia - Archaeology and Prehistory in Fiji.

Week 11. Ancestral Polynesian society and the emergence of centralized political authority in Tonga.

Week 12. Into East Polynesia from the perspective of Hawaii and Easter Island.

Week 13. The final expansion and New Zealand prehistory.

Map quiz:

Students are expected to gain a familiarity with the names of individual island groups and their locations in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Maps to be concerned with are in Bellwood (pp. 8 and 9; 21).

Paper:

Students are expected to write a 1500-2000 word research paper on any aspect of Oceanic prehistory they may take an interest in. Topic selection must be submitted to the instructor for approval by the end of class in Week 3. Papers must be submitted no later than the end of class in Week 12. Papers must be typed and double-spaced. Regional or appropriate journals dealing with Oceanic archaeology in the SFU library include the Journal of the Polynesian Society, Asian Perspectives, Archaeology in Oceania, Journal of Pacific History, Journal of New Zealand Archaeology and Antiquity. American Antiquity in text citation format is to be employed. Format guidelines are available for sale in the Archaeology Department office for \$1.00.

Grading: Map quiz 10%

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Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Paper	30%

Examinations:

Both the midterm and final examinations are set for a two hour period. The final examination is not cumulative, meaning that students will be tested only on those materials covered after the midterm examination.

Required Texts: Bellwood, Peter 1987 The Polynesians: prehistory of an island people. Thames and Hudson, New York. Available for sale in the SFU Bookstore.

Library reserve readings will also be assigned on a weekly basis.

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ARCH 272-3

Notes: Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.