

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Anthropology

# **ANTH 308**

## Anthropology in Oceania

# **Course Outline**

## CRN 276 : 24 POINTS : Trimester 2, 2006

**COURSE COORDINATOR: A/PROFESSOR JEFF SISSONS** 

Room 1017, Murphy Building Tel: (04) 463 6131 Email: Jeff.Sissons@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: TUES & FRI 12NOON -1PM: HU LT 119

### ANTH 308 Anthropology in Oceania

COURSE COORDINATOR:	A/Prof. Jeff Sissons Murphy Building, MY 1017 Tel: 463 6131 Email: jeff.sissons@vuw.ac.nz	
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	By appointment	
LECTURES:	Tuesday & Friday 12noon -1 pm, HU LT119	
TUTORIAL:	Mondays, time to be advised You are required to attend 1 tutorial per week	

Information not included in this outline will be provided in class.

#### **COURSE CONTENT**

The major theme running through this course will be deep engagements between indigenous cultural orders and western religious, economic and political systems in Oceania. We begin by examining the relationship between indigenous tradition and history focussing particularly on Marshall Sahlins' theoretical writing on the relationships between culture and historical practice in Oceania (topic 1). Engagements between Christianity and indigenous social orders have produced distinctive Christian cultures and entailed creative responses to modernity (topic 2). Economic engagements have led to the emergence of class relations and the creation of new identities that draw on and transform traditional and Western symbolic capital (topic 3). Political engagements have included efforts to rationally reconcile chiefly power and individualised democracy (topic 4). Labour migration has been associated with the development of distinctive diasporic cultural forms (topic 5).

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will have gained a deeper understanding of cultural engagements between indigenous cultural orders and western systems in Oceania and of the process of deep cultural engagement in general. They will also have developed a greater ability to critically analyse the literature in this field and to think about it in a more theoretically informed way.

The forms of assessment will assist you to achieve the aims and objectives outlines above and to develop particular study skills.

- The Essays are designed to enhance the research and analytical skills in relation to the study of cultural engagement in Oceania and to enhance your writing skills generally.
- The in-class test is designed to measure how well you have understood the readings and lectures for this course.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

There will be two essays and one in-class test. The weightings are as follows:

First Essay:	2000 words	30% of final grade
Due 11 August 2006		
Second Essay:	<b>3000</b> words	40% of final grade
Due 6 October 2006		
In Class Test:		30% of final grade
10 October 2006		50 / 0 of final grade
10 October 2000		