



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

OFFICE HOURS:

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.

