**ANT 388:** PACIFIC ISLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

2020 Palau Archaeological Field Project

University of Oregon

Study Abroad Program

**Instructor**: Dr. Scott M. Fitzpatrick

**Location**: Republic of Palau

**ANTH Major/Minor Requirements:** Upper Division; Geographical for Major and Minor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary aims of this class are archaeological exploration of the prehistoric colonization of the Pacific islands and examination of cultural patterns of adaptation to island life. Changing Pacific Island cultures are examined from the time of earliest human settlement through the stages of complex society existing at the time of early Western contact. The area of Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific provides an early cultural foundation and out of this, a broad, later dispersal pattern of eastern Pacific island settlement follows. A regional framework will be formulated for discussing the migrations and cultural adaptations made by peoples moving into the Pacific and for clarifying their relationship to complex cultures in mainland Asia.

Ethnology, linguistics, and oral history are all possible areas of study related to culture history and conceptions held by islanders and researchers of the human past in the Pacific Islands. Of interest is the use of culture history developed by archaeologists to reconstruct "ethnic history," and this includes questions related to cultural conservation and identity. Connections between archaeologically known cultures and historic to modern period island peoples will also be explored.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

In this course students will:

* evaluate how archaeologists study and reconstruct Pacific Island cultures;
* calculate how cultural remains help to understand past human behavior (e.g., artifact provenience studies and distant exchange systems);
* identify the origins of traditional Pacific Island cultures and patterns of migration;
* explain how humans modified their landscapes and transported the necessary goods, animals, and plants in order to survive;
* outline the impacts that humans had on insular environments, the rise of sociocultural complexity, and the consequences of European arrival.

**Course Work**

Participation and Readings 50

Assignments (2) 100 (50 points each)

Final Exam 100

**250 total points**

**Engagement Hours**

Lectures = 20 (4hours/week x 5 weeks)

Readings pre-program = 50 (10 hours/week x 5 weeks)

Readings during program = 25 (5 hours/week x 5 weeks)

Assignments = 10 (2 hours/week x 5 weeks)

Final Prep and Exam = 15

Total = 120 hours

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Participation and Readings** – You will be responsible for attending lecture and reading the assigned chapters of the text and any journal articles before class begins. 20% of your grade is based on your level of involvement and participation in class and command of the readings.

**Assignments –** Two written assignments will test your knowledge of Pacific Island prehistory and archaeology. Assignments will be given one week prior to their due date and each will comprise 25% of your grade for the course.

* **Assignment 1** – Traditional Pacific navigation – explore how traditional Pacific Island sailing craft moved across the seas; examine how ancient sailors navigated by using the stars.
* **Assignment 2 –** Cultural chronologies – examine a stratigraphic sequence from a hypothetical Pacific Island site

**Final Exam** – A final exam will be given on the last day of class. The exam will be comprehensive and cover all readings and lectures. It will include a combination of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will comprise 25% of your grade.

**POLICY ISSUES**

For every day an assignment or exercise is late, 10% will be deducted from your final score. This includes weekend days. I do not accept emailed assignments – you must provide a hard copy unless specifically stated otherwise.

### Incompletes

In this course, an incomplete grade will be used in accordance with the official university grading policy, which can be found at <http://registrar.uoregon.edu/incomplete_policy>

**Open Learning Environment**

The intention and structure of university level courses are to provide open, thoughtful forums for a wide variety of topics. While discussing these topics, students shall not discriminate on the basis of “The University of Oregon affirms and actively promotes the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment at this institution without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other consideration not directly and substantively related to effective performance. This policy implements all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and executive orders” as outlined in the handbook on the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. <http://aaeo.uoregon.edu/AAEO%20Booklet%20Color.pdf>

### Accessible Education

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity in education and accepts diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. Disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity integral to the university and to society. Please see the following link for more information: <http://aec.uoregon.edu/>

**University Career Center**  
The Career Center exists to provide career and job search services and resources to UO students and alumni. Our mission is to help you develop long-term career goals and strategies, facilitate self-exploration and discovery, connect with potential employers, and empower and challenge you to fulfill your potential. We look forward to serving as your advocate as you pursue an inspired and fulfilling future. The UO Career Center is a part of the Division of Student Affairs and has offices in Hendricks Hall on the UO campus and in the White Stag Block at the University of Oregon in Portland. Please see the following link for more information: <http://career.uoregon.edu/>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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| **Week 1** | **Introduction** |
|  | Introduction to Pacific Island Environments and Culture |
|  | Palauan prehistory and archaeological methods |
|  | People and Languages of the Pacific and SE Asia |
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|  | **Environment, Resources and Cultural Adaptation** |
|  | Pacific Islands: Types and Significance |
|  | Environments and Resources |
|  | Major Island changes: Specific Cases |
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|  | **Archaeology and Cultural Sequences** |
|  | Cultural Frameworks/Regional Prehistory |
|  | New Guinea and the SW Pacific |
|  | Eastern Melanesian Archaeology |
| **Week 2** | **Palauan Archaeology**  The Culture-History of Palau  Bioarchaeology and Mortuary Behaviors  Human Impacts  **Required Readings**: Clark (2005), Erlandson and Fitzpatrick (2006), Nelson and Fitzpatrick (2006), Fitzpatrick and Nelson (2008, 2011), Fitzpatrick et al. (2001), Giovas et al. (2010), Fitzpatrick and Donaldson (2007), Masse et al. (2006), Liston (2009) |
| **Week 3** | **Early Migrations; Polynesia** |
|  | Traditional Navigation and Sailing Craft |
|  | Migrations |
|  | Sea Lanes and corridors (see: http://www.museum.upenn.edu./navigation/Intro.html) |
|  | **Papua New Guinea** |
|  | New Guinea – an Island in the True Sense? |
|  | Language Diversity and Early Agriculture |
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|  | **Lapita and Polynesia** |
|  | The Lapita Complex |
|  | **Readings**: Kirch (1991), Callaghan and Fitzpatrick (2007, 2008), Finney (2007), Wilmshurst et al. (2011)  **Assignment 1 due** |
| **Week 4** | **Sociopolitical Developments**  New Zealand  Island Circumscription and Polynesian Chiefdoms  Impacts on the New Zealand environment |
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|  | **Micronesia** |
|  | Pohnpei and Eastern Micronesia |
|  | The Archaeology of Palau: Early Settlement |
|  | **Micronesia: Trade and Exchange Systems** |
|  | Yapese Stone Money |
|  | Micronesian Exchange Relationships |
|  | **Required Readings**: Fitzpatrick (2008)  **Assignment 2 due** |
| **Week 5** | **The Western Pacific Rim** |
|  | The Ryukyu Archipelago |
|  | Okinawa |
|  | Sociopolitical Evolution  Synthesis and Avenues for Future Research |
|  | **Required Readings**: Pearson (1990) |

**Final Exam** (TBA)

**Required Readings (Provided as PDFs)**

Anderson, A. (2001) No Meat on that Beautiful Shore: The Prehistoric Abandonment of Subtropical Polynesian Islands. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 11(1-2):14-23.

Callaghan, Richard and Scott M. Fitzpatrick. 2007. On the Relative Isolation of a Micronesian Archipelago during the Historic Period: the Palau Case Study. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 36(2):353-364.

Callaghan, Richard and Scott M. Fitzpatrick. 2008. Examining Prehistoric Migration Patterns in the Palauan Archipelago: a Computer Simulated Analysis of Drift Voyaging. *Asian Perspectives* 47(1):28-44.

Clark, G. 2005. 3000 Year Old Culture History of Palau. *Asian Perspectives*

Erlandson, J. M. and S. M. Fitzpatrick. 2006. Oceans, Islands, and Coasts: Current Perspectives on the Role of the Sea in Human Prehistory. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 1(1):5-32.

Fitzpatrick, Scott M. and Terry Donaldson. 2007. Anthropogenic Impacts to Coral Reefs in Palau, Western Micronesia during the Late Holocene. *Coral Reefs* 26:915-930

Fitzpatrick, Scott M.. 2008. Micronesian Interregional Interaction: Deciphering Multi-Group Contacts and Exchange Systems through Time. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 27(1):131-147.

Fitzpatrick, Scott M. and Greg C. Nelson. 2008. From Limestone Caves to Concrete Graves: 3000 Years of Mortuary Practice in the Palauan Archipelago of Western Micronesia. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 18(5):439-457.

Fitzpatrick, Scott M. and Greg C. Nelson. 2011. Purposeful Commingling of Adult and Child Cranial Elements from the Chelechol ra Orrak Cemetery, Palau. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 23:360-366.

Fitzpatrick, Scott M., Christina Giovas, and Osamu Kataoka. 2011. Temporal Trends in Prehistoric Fishing in Palau, Micronesia over the Last 1500 Years. *Archaeology in Oceania* 6:6-16.

Friedlander et al. (2008) – Pacific Island Genetics

Giovas, Christina, Scott M. Fitzpatrick, Meagan Clark, and Mira Abed. 2010. Evidence for Size Increase in an Exploited Mollusc: Humped Conch (*Strombus gibberulus*) at Chelechol ra Orrak, Palau from ca. 3000-0 BP. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 37:2788-2798.

Hunt, T. 2007. Rethinking Easter Island’s Catastrophe. *Journal of Archaeological Science*

Kirch, P. V. 2010 – Peopling of the Pacific. *Annual Review of Anthropology*

Kirch, P. V. 2007. Hawaii as a Model System for Human Ecodynamics. *American Anthropologist* 109:8-26.

Liston, J. 2009. Palauan Earthworks. *Archaeology in Oceania*

Masse, W. B., J. Liston, J. Carruci, and J. S. Athens. 2006. Evaluating the effects of climate change on environment, resource depletion, and culture in the Palau Islands between AD 1200 and 1600. *Quaternary International* 151:106-132.

Nelson, Greg C. and Scott M. Fitzpatrick. 2006. Preliminary Investigations of the Chelechol ra Orrak Cemetery, Republic of Palau: I, Skeletal Biology and Paleopathology. *Anthropological Science* 113(3):1-12.