

ANTH 3300.400

Peoples and Cultures of the Pacific

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lisa Henry

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment 940-565-4160; email: use Canvas email

COURSE COMMUNICATION:

The best way to reach me is through the Canvas email tool. When you use this tool, your email subject line is prefaced by the course number and helps me keep track of the many emails that come in daily. For email correspondence, students can expect a response within 24 hours from Monday-Thursday and 48 hours from Friday-Sunday. Quiz grades will be available automatically. Discussion grades will be posted within 7-10 days. Exam grades will be posted within 7-10 days.

Students need to use your UNT/Canvas email. When I send you an email through Canvas, it will go to your UNT email account. If you have a different preferred email, you can forward your UNT account to that preferred email. Your UNT/Canvas email is the only way I have to communicate with you. In past years, I've tried to reach out to students for various reasons and received no responses because students are not checking their UNT email. Communication is very important to me. In an online class, email is the only way I have to reach out to you. Make sure you check your UNT email or have it forwarded to your preferred email.

Please contact your Instructional Assistant (IA) for questions about the syllabus, assignments, etc. Please contact the professor for questions related to course content.

COURSE NOTIFICATIONS:

Canvas has a standard notification setting for every new Canvas user. To change these settings, go to [Canvas Guides' document regarding Notifications](#). It's best to receive (at the very least) phone notifications and/or emails for announcements, changes to due dates, and emails from the instructor/Instructions Assistants.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introduction to the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Islands. We explore the nature of indigenous island societies in the Melanesian, Micronesian, and Polynesian culture areas, focusing on social organization, gender, economic and political systems, and religious beliefs. We then look at the transformation wrought in these societies by

Western contact, missionary influence, and colonial incorporation. Finally, we will examine how contemporary Pacific Island nations are dealing with modern problems and finding their niche in the global system.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop an awareness of the diversity of the peoples and cultures of the Pacific region.
2. To develop in students an open-minded objectivity in realizing not just other ways of doing things, but other possibilities of ways to make sense of the human condition.
3. To develop scholarly critical thinking skills, and effective means of organizing and presenting them.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe how Pacific Island study fits into the subfields of anthropology.
2. Describe the history and significance of Pacific anthropology.
3. Explain how the geology of the Pacific affects available resources for island inhabitants.
4. Explain the Pacific Islanders' migration.
5. Compare the indigenous societies of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.
6. Compare Western contact and social change in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.
7. Compare contemporary society in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

OUTLINE OF COURSE MODULES:

- Introduction to the Course
- Presentation Information
- Readings by Units
- Extra Credit
- Unit 1: Introduction to the Pacific
 - Lesson 1
 - Lesson 2
 - Lesson 3
 - Lesson 4
- Unit 2: Melanesia
 - Lesson 5
 - Lesson 6
 - Lesson 7

- Sugar: An Ethnographic Novel
- Unit 3: Micronesia
 - Lesson 8
 - Lesson 9
 - Lesson 10
- Unit 4: Polynesia
 - Lesson 11
 - Lesson 12
 - Lesson 13
- Core Assessment

KEEPING UP:

Understand that this course moves quickly...at the same pace as an on-campus course. You need to log in routinely, pay attention to the announcements, and follow the syllabus.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Like most upper-level anthropology classes, this is a reading course. Your readings will be:

1. 3 articles that are provided in the course “Readings” module.
2. A few blog posts and small open-access articles.
3. Edward Narain and Tarryn Phillips. 2024. Sugar: An Ethnographic Novel. The University of Toronto Press. This e-book is available at the official [UNT Barnes & Noble bookstore](#). You can also buy the physical book if you prefer.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams: There will be 4 exams in this course that will cover course content on Canvas and the required articles. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Each exam is 100 points. **The course outline indicates the due dates of all exams.** Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3 exams will be available for 7 days past the **due date**. Unit 4 exam will be available for only 2 days past the due date because it is finals week and grades are due. If you miss an exam due date without a valid excuse, there will be 5 points off for every day late. No exceptions. Please note that on Canvas, there is a **due date** and an **available until** date. The **due date** is the deadline for taking the exam without penalty. For example, if you are 5 days late, the maximum points you can earn is 75 points. A missed exam is not taken lightly in my class. Students **may not** reschedule exams because of **out of town trips and/or plane reservations**. **Mark the exam dates on your calendar.**

Discussions: Throughout the semester, you will have Discussion assignments that will take place on the Discussion Boards. We will discuss a few articles, some videos/vlogs from Pacific Islanders, the Sugar book, and a few other topics.

Each week you will write:

- 1 open-ended question and then discuss your thoughts about that question, worth 4pts
- 2 responses, worth 6pts (3 pts each). These responses need to be substantial (about 50 words).
- Extra Credit: 2 pts per extra response, 2 extra responses max, up to 4 pts total.

The Instructional Assistants will add any extra credit points to each discussion column in the comment section.

Scores from the lowest 2 weeks will be dropped.

Try to "think like an anthropologist". Think about anything that stood out to you in the article. Are there any aspects of the featured culture that you found interesting? Why? Be specific. Don't just state facts from the articles - **reflect on them**. For those who may not have participated in online discussions before, it's definitely ok to have different opinions from others; in fact, that's part of what can make online discussions so rich and vibrant. Just remember to address those differences in a professional manner. If you have a different opinion or idea about something, support what you are saying with evidence from the article or your own experiences.

Ethnography Book Quiz: There is one assigned ethnography in this class – *Sugar: An Ethnographic Novel*. There will be class discussion and a quiz covering this book. The class discussions are spread over several weeks. This book quiz will be open from the beginning of Unit 2 (Feb. 2) with a deadline of March 4th at 11:59 p.m. The quiz will be available for 4 days past the due date. If you miss the quiz due date without a valid excuse, there will be 2 points off for every day late. Review questions are located in Unit 2: Melanesia. You should begin reading this book right away and don't wait until the last minute. The book quiz is 50 points. The book will not be on any of the exams.

Article Quizzes: There will be 3 quizzes over the required articles. Quizzes will cover 1 article at a time. Questions will be T/F, and each quiz is 10 points. The material covered on quizzes **will also be** on the exams. Check the course schedule for dates. Quizzes will be open during the entire Unit. The quizzes will not be available past the due date. After each quiz deadline, I will release videos of myself talking through the articles if you want extra preparation for the exam.

Presentation: Each student will prepare **one** formal presentation during this course. All information about the presentation (including sign-up, guidelines, and examples) is located under "Presentation Information" under Modules. Presentations will cover **contemporary culture** and society of Melanesian, Micronesian, and Polynesian

nations and are due during the specific unit. For example, if you sign up to make a presentation on Papua New Guinea, your presentation will be due towards the end of Unit 2 – Melanesia. The presentation is 100 points. **The sign-up deadline is: Feb. 1st.** This is not a group presentation. **This is an individual presentation.** You do only one presentation, not one for each unit.

For each unit, I will choose one presentation from each country to be on the exam. I will post the chosen presentations the day before the exam so you will need to leave time in your schedule to study these presentations before you take the exam.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Assessment	Points
Unit 1 Exam	100 points
Unit 2 Exam	100 points
Unit 3 Exam	100 points
Unit 4 Exam	100 points
Presentation	100 points
Academic Integrity Statement quiz	5 points
Presentation quiz	10 points
Discussions (10 pts each, 13 weeks, 2 lowest scores dropped)	110 points
Article quizzes (10 pts each, 3 quizzes)	30 points

Ethnography Book quiz	50 points
CORE questions (10 pts each)	20 points
Total Points	725 points
<p><i>possible extra credit points breakdown</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>up to 4 pts per discussion week (56 pts total)</i> · <i>up to 20 pts for the extra credit paper</i> · <i>5 points for class SPOT participation</i> · <i>5 points Applied Anthropology Conference</i> 	<i>up to 86 pts</i>

CALCULATING LETTER GRADE

Cumulative Points Grade	Letter Grade
649-725 (90-100%)	A
577-648 (80-89%)	B
504-576 (70-79%)	C
432-503 (60-69%)	D
Below 432 (0-59%)	F

On the Grades tab, you will see a column for TOTAL. Your personal total will accumulate as you finish items in the course. Missing grades will count as missing until we manually enter zeros. ATTN: This grade will change slightly at the end of the class

when I drop the 2 lowest Discussion grades. During the semester, it will reflect all Discussion grades.

WITHDRAWAL:

If you are unable to complete this course you must withdraw. Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which **YOU** must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an "F."

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Copyright: All material in this course is owned by Dr. Lisa Henry and the University of North Texas. You are not authorized to publish any material from this course on other websites, including study websites like CourseHero.

University Policy on Student Academic Integrity: ([Policy and Procedures number 06.003.](#))

Academic Misconduct: "Academic Misconduct," in this policy, means the intentional or unintentional action by a student to engage in behavior in the academic setting including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic misconduct, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage.

1. **Cheating:** "Cheating," in this policy, means the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to: 1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments; 2. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; 3. use, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to instructors, staff members, or other students of the University; 4. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor; 5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
2. **Fabrication:** "Fabrication," in this policy, means falsifying or inventing any information, data, or research outside of a defined academic exercise.
3. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** (*e. collusion*): "Facilitating academic dishonesty," in this policy, means helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.
4. **Forgery:** "Forgery," in this policy, means intentionally falsifying or altering a score, grade, or official academic University record or the signature of another.

5. **Plagiarism:** “Plagiarism,” in this policy, means use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to: 1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment or citation, or 2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
6. **Sabotage:** “Sabotage,” in this policy, means acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Department Policy on Student Academic Integrity: The Department of Anthropology expects its students to abide by the high ethical standards of practicing professionals within the field of anthropology. The Department does not tolerate cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, or sabotage. This includes the use of unauthorized professional writing/editing services and generative AI for assignments. Students are expected to follow the [American Anthropological Association’s code of ethics](#): “In their capacity as researchers, anthropologists are subject to the ethical principles guiding all scientific and scholarly conduct. They must not plagiarize, nor fabricate or falsify evidence, or knowingly misrepresent information or its source” (<http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>).

Students are encouraged to use the [UNT Writing Center](#). For additional resources to help with paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see the [Department of Anthropology Writing Guide](#). For information on the University’s policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

Course policy on Student Academic Integrity: In addition, students may not “copy and paste” material from the course into their exams. All essay questions must be written in the student’s own words. Students suspected of **any of the above** will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university.

GroupMe and collective study guides: You all are welcome to use GroupMe or any other communication platform to work together on the exam reviews. However, each exam essay needs to be written in the student’s own words. If you have a group study guide and several of you copy word-for-word that shared answer, you will not get credit.

Student Responsibility: Your primary responsibility as a student is to master the material presented in class and in the readings and do well in the course. This is an easily achieved objective. Log onto Canvas and do the reading! At times concepts or

issues raised in class might be unclear. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and have various strengths and weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, see me after class or during office hours as soon as you realize a problem. We will work together to find a solution. DON'T wait until the end of the semester. Please realize that my goal as an instructor is not just to grade, evaluate, and test, but to help you gain a valuable life perspective to carry outside the class, into whatever you do.

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

1. **Veteran Students**: For students who are active or retired military, thank you for serving our country! If you are a new or returning student, UNT has a lively Student Veteran organization, and a number of other campus resources are available.
2. **UNT Learning Center**: The UNT Learning Center is an AMAZING department filled with AMAZING people – all here to help you, the student, maximize your potential in college and beyond. Not only do they provide us with our Supplemental Instructors, they also offer *free of charge* a number of services such as tutoring, academic coaching, study and learning workshops, speed reading, campus resources, and a number of other academic success-related topics! Check them out here:
3. **UNT Writing Lab**: Another AWESOME resource available to students is the UNT Writing Lab. If you need a refresher course in academic writing or some quick links for your next paper. On-campus and want to attend a workshop to improve your writing skills? Off-campus and struggling with academic paper writing? Check out their online tutoring.
4. **Life happens!** If you are experiencing a personal or family crisis which is affecting your success as a student here at UNT, please check out the resources at the Dean of Students.
5. **Basic Needs – You can't learn if you're hungry:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess. **Dean of Students 940-565-2648**. You are not alone. We are here to help.

UNT Food Pantry: Any current UNT student in need can visit the Food Pantry. Students can get in through the front door of Crumley Hall, or through the back near the docks. Students who visit the food pantry can request to

meet with a staff member to discuss any difficulties they may be facing. When appropriate, a referral to additional campus and/or community resources will be made. The Dean of Students Office has established protocols that allow for student confidentiality and dignity to be maintained. Check the UNT Food Pantry webpage for current opening times.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Mon-Sun week	UNIT 1: Introduction to the Pacific	Readings
Jan. 12-18	Lesson 1: Introduction to Anthropology Lesson 2: Pacific anthropology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan. 18: Discussion #1 Introduction bio Jan. 18: Academic Integrity Statement quiz 	Sugar book prologue (get started on this book for Unit 2)
Jan. 19-25	Lesson 3: Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan. 25: Discussion #2 Cultural Relativism vs. Ethnocentrism 	Sugar book part 1: pp. 5-98 (keep reading this book for Unit 2)
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	Lesson 4: Peopling of the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 1: Deadline for presentation sign-up Feb. 1: Presentation Quiz Feb. 1: Discussion #3: Sugar book part 1 Feb. 2: Unit 1 Exam (includes map questions) (opens at 12:01 a.m CT, due by 11:59 p.m. CT) Even though the unit ends on Sunday, the test is on Monday, Feb. 2nd. 	Sugar book part 1: pp. 99-199 (keep reading this book for Unit 2)
Mon-Sun week	UNIT 2: Melanesia	
Feb. 2-8	Lesson 5: Melanesia – Indigenous Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 8: Discussion #4: Sugar book part 2 pp. 201-254 	Sugar book part 2: pp. 201-254
Feb. 9-15	Lesson 6: Melanesia – Contact/ Social Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 15: Discussion #5: Stern article Feb. 15: Quiz 1 deadline (Stern) (open during entire unit until deadline at 11:59 p.m. CT) 	Stern
Feb. 16-22	Lesson 7: Melanesia – Contemporary Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 22: Discussion #6: Solomon Island video 	Sugar book part 2: pp. 255-307

Feb. 23-Mar 1	<p>Lesson 7: Melanesia – Contemporary Society (con't)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 1: Discussion #7: Sugar book part 3 or “Reading Sugar” Mar 1: Presentations due by 11:59 p.m. CT (Papua New Guinea, West Papua, Vanuatu/New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia) 	Sugar book part 3: pp. 309-323 and “Reading Sugar” pp. 325-348
Mar 2-8	<p>Sugar Quiz and Unit 2 Exam Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 2: student presentations will be posted to study for the exam Mar 4: Sugar: An Ethnographic Novel quiz (open the entire unit) Mar 6-8 Unit 2 Exam (opens at 12:01 a.m. CT on 3/6, due by 11:59 p.m. CT on 3/8) Because next week is Spring Break, the exam will be available over the entire weekend. You can finish it on Friday, March 6th if you have Spring Break plans that start over the weekend. 	
Mon-Sun week	UNIT 3: Micronesia	
Mar 9-15	Spring Break	
Mar 16-22	<p>Lesson 8: Micronesia – Indigenous Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 22: Discussion #8: Carucci article Mar 22: Quiz 2 deadline (Carucci) (open during entire unit until the deadline at 11:59 p.m. CT) 	Carucci
Mar 23-29	<p>Lesson 9: Micronesia – Contact/ Social Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 29: Discussion #9: Celis article 	Celis
Mar 30-April 5	<p>Lesson 10: Micronesia – Contemporary Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 3: Presentations due by 11:59 p.m. CT (Marianas Islands, Nauru, Palau/Belau, Guam, Marshall Islands, Kiribati) April 4: student presentations will be posted to study for exam April 5: Discussion #10: Food and Culture Videos April 6: Unit 3 Exam (opens at 12:01 a.m. CT, due by 11:59 p.m. CT) Even though the unit ends on Sunday, the test is on Monday, April 6th. 	

Mon-Sun week	UNIT 4: Polynesia	
April 6-12	Lesson 11: Polynesia – Indigenous Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 12: Discussion #11: Tattoo Videos 	
April 13-19	Lesson 12: Polynesia – Contact/ Social Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 19: Discussion #12: Hawai'i's Last Queen 	
April 20-26	Lesson 13: Polynesia – Contemporary Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 26: Discussion #13: Kahn article April 26: Quiz 3 deadline (Kahn) (open during entire unit until deadline at 11:59 p.m. CT) 	Kahn
April 27-May 1 (*short work week)	Lesson 13: Polynesia – Contemporary Society (con't) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 1: Presentations due at 11:59 p.m. CT (Western/Independent Samoa, Easter Island, Tonga, Hawai'i, American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Pitcairn, Tuvalu) May 2 : student presentations will be posted to study for exam 	
Finals May 4-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 5: Unit 4 Exam (opens at 12:01 a.m. CT, due by 11:59 p.m. CT) 	
	<i>Note: The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course or syllabus.</i>	