Instructor: Professor Aletta Biersack  
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Office: 255 Condon Hall  

Term: Spring 2009  
Office phone: 6-5110  
Office hours: M 3-5 pm  

ANTH 328  
NEW GUINEA  
Tues, Thurs 12-1:50 pm  
260 Condon Hall

Course aims  
The course introduces students to one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse areas of the world: the second largest island in the world: New Guinea. New Guinea divides between a western half, which comprises two provinces of Indonesia (West Papua and the larger province, Papua), and an eastern half, which, since 1975 has been the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. The course provides exposure to both halves, but, because of the relative dearth of reading materials in English on Papua and West Papua, it favors Papua New Guinea. Topics covered include: the peopling of New Guinea, art and the body (Asmat); gender, sexuality, marriage, and the body (highlands and coastal variations); trade and exchange; sorcery (negative exchange); colonial histories; interpreting the white man; Christianity and cargo cults; bisnis; urbanization; prostitution and HIV/AIDS; and resource development (logging, mining).

Readings and films  
All readings will be posted on Blackboard. Most films will be available through Knight Library Reserves. In a few cases, you will have to access films you have not seen in class through the instructor.

Performance requirements  
There will be two sit-down midterms and a final. Students will be given study guides for the midterms, and there will be some time for Q&A in preparation for each midterm. All exams will combine multiple choice questions with short definitions, fill-in-the-blanks, and very brief essay questions. The exams will cover ppt/lectures, readings, and films. The final will be comprehensive.

    Make-ups will be administered only if the student supplies complete documentation for an acceptable excuse for missing an exam. Anyone who wants to take the exam at a time other than the scheduled time must again produce complete documentation justifying the shift in the exam time.

Grades  
Grades will be posted on Blackboard’s Grade Center. Note that the percentage of possible points you will receive at varying points of the course should not be translated into a letter grade. The course will be graded according to the overall distribution of scores at the end of the course.

    If a student’s score on the second midterm is 20% higher than his or her grade on the first midterm, one-third of the difference between the two scores will be added to the original score for the first midterm. If a student scores at least 20% higher on the final
than he or she scored on the midterms, the combined score on the midterm will be raised to reflect the improvement in the student’s performance on the final.

**Disability accommodation**
Those who require disability accommodation should contact Disability Services, 164 Oregon Hall (346-1155). The instructor will work with Disability Services and the student to foster an inclusive learning environment.

**Electronic devices**
All electronic devices are to be turned off as long as you are in the classroom. This includes laptops.

**Key dates**
First midterm 4/16 (study guide posted on Blackboard 4/13); all materials will be supplied
Second midterm 5/12 (study guide posted on Blackboard 5/7); all materials will be supplied
Final 6/12 at 8:00 am (study guide posted on Blackboard 5/28); all materials will be supplied

**Week one**

**March 31, 2009 New Guinea and its peopling**


**April 2, 2009 Art and the body: the Asmat**


Film clip: *The Asmat* (Dept. of Anthropology’s film library)

**Week two**

**April 7, 2009 Gender, sexuality, marriage, the body: highlands models I**


April 9, 2009  Gender, sexuality, marriage, the body: highlands models II


Film: Guardians of the Flutes (Dept. of Anthropology Film Library; will be placed on Knight reserves for the duration of the course)

Week three

April 13, 2009  Study guide for 1st midterm posted on Blackboard.

April 14, 2009  Gender, sexuality, marriage, the body III: coastal models


April 16, 2009  1st midterm; from gender to exchange

Film: Kawelka: Ongka’s Big Moka (VT 01834)

Week four

April 21, 2009  Trade, (positive) exchange


Film segment: Bronislaw Malinowski: Off the Verandah, Kula, Ring of Fire

April 23, 2009  Sorcery as negative exchange

Week five

April 28, 2009  Colonialism


April 30, 2009  Who is the white man?


Film: *First Contact* (VT 01410)

Week six

May 5, 2009  Christianity and cargo cults I


Film clip: *Koriam’s Law* (instructor’s copy)

May 7, 2009  Christianity and cargo cults II


Study guide for 2nd midterm posted on Blackboard.
Week seven

May 12, 2009  Second midterm (covers from the first midterm through week 6); leadership in an era of bisnis


Film: Joe Leahy’s Neighbors (VT 01781)

May 14, 2009  Ethnographies of change


Week eight

May 19, 2009  Urbanization


May 21, 2009  Sexual innovations and HIV/AIDS


Week nine

May 26, 2009  Mining in Papua New Guinea and Papua I: Bougainville (PNG), Ok Tedi (PNG), Grasberg (Papua)


May 28  Mining in Papua New Guinea and Papua II: Porgera and Mt. Kare

Clips from several films on Porgera plus instructor’s ppt images.

Study guide for the final posted on Blackboard

Week ten

June 2, 2009  Review for the final

June 4, 2009  Review for the final

Finals week

June 12, 2009  Sit-down final from 8:00 am to 10:00 am