

ANTH 410/510 Polynesian Archaeology

Instructor: Ayres

This class is an overview of the archaeological record showing the origins, expansion, and cultural adaptations of Polynesians migrating into the eastern Pacific islands beginning over 3,000 years ago. We will provide interdisciplinary perspectives on natural and cultural environments for Polynesian islands. This includes examination of the physical and biological environment and geography of the Pacific Islands, culture history and change through a study of prehistory and early history. We begin the class with understanding the environmental issues facing humans living on Pacific Islands, the cultural traditions found on islands, and how their evolving forms represent adaptations to island environments. A general introduction to Polynesia, this class focuses on archaeological data and includes examination of artifacts and other site information.

The course will be especially useful for students interested in the Pacific Islands and Pacific Asia, anthropology, international studies, and other regional studies. It can be used to fulfill an archaeology course requirement for the anthropology major.