DISCOVER OCEANIC ART

Professor: Jean Borgatti  
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Office hours: W – 3:30-5:30  
Class Time: W 12:30-3:30  
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This course will provide a general introduction to the arts of Australia and the Pacific Islands from pre-contact to contemporary times. Aspects of architecture, sculpture, performance arts, and body decoration will be included. We will also consider issues relating to identity, gender roles, contact history, cultural change, repatriation and commodification of the arts. Lecture, discussion, video and museum visits (Peabody Museum/Harvard). Responsibilities will include short response papers to videos/guest lecture/museum visit, a short take home quiz at the end of the course, and a several-part research paper/project (see guidelines) based on a traditional work of art in a museum collection.

Required Texts:  

Requirements andPossibilities  
1) Attendance/participation. This means coming on time and staying until the end of the class. (10 points each class – 13 classes) 130 points  
2) Check your email - this is how I communicate with you.  
3) Complete assigned readings before the class associated with the assignment  
4) Complete 5 reflection papers within a week of the assignment (up to 20 points each) 100 points  
   See Guidelines  
5) 1 short paper in several parts that will include research on a 'traditional' work from the MFA or the Peabody Museum at Harvard (according to guidelines given)—100 points, comparison with a contemporary work (15 points) and inclusion of your work in a virtual museum intervention (15 points).  
   See Guidelines page.  
6) A short take home quiz structured around identifications, comparisons, and discussion according to questions asked in relation to the images. You will get guidelines and are expected to research the answers in the readings & lecture notes (15 points)  
7) Extra Credit opportunities: Attending any appropriate lectures in the area (opportunities will be publicized)—10 points; creative work based on your paper topic—up to 10 points; (a visit and critical review of an exhibition of Oceanic art, such as that at the Peabody Museum in Salem or the MET in NYC – 10 points each). Finding a really good you-tube clip (good quality film as well as information and relevance to the course content) – 5 points. Up to 40 points

Grading – Your grade will be earned based on the points accumulated. Thus each event and each deadline is important. This is a professional school, and I expect you to respond as professionals.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES  
Use the bibliographies in your respective text books for sources. You have access to the Museum of Fine Arts Library made up of the William Morris Hunt Memorial Library, the W. Van Alan Clark Jr. Library at the SMFA, and nine curatorial department libraries. Their holdings may be found on-line through FLO -- Use ethnic group name, country name, and artist name as keywords.  
Http://68.162.227.115/vwebv/searchBasic?sk=en_US. We will have a research workshop on Jan. 28 in class. You also have access to the Tufts Library Databases on-line. You will need a Tufts Library ID. Use
databases for articles. Google Scholar will give you information on articles. Wikipedia is possible, but unreliable. You must check all sources and information. Web-based sources for contemporary artists are quite useful, particularly if an artist has his/her own homepage.

Jan 14 - Reading: Morphy, pp.4-11; Thomas, pp.9-36, D'Alleva, pp. 10-29
Topic: Introduction to Oceania, Discussion of Papers and other Assignments.
Preliminary selection of three possible objects as paper topics - due by email on or before Jan.21
Film: Cannibal Tours [Segments available on You Tube]

Jan. 21 No Class (Monday Schedule)
Jan. 27 Paper Topic and Preliminary Bibliography Due by email.

Jan. 28 - Reading: Morphy, pp. 65-142
Topic: Australia – Dreamtime/Characters
Discussion: Cannibal Tours
Library resources workshop: bring your questions

Feb. 4 - Reading: Morphy, pp. 143-260
Topic: Australia – Traditional Arts (cont.)

Feb. 11 - Reading: Morphy, p. 263-420
Topic: Australia - Contemporary Art

Feb. 18-March 4 – Reading : D’Alleva, pp.31-92
Thomas, pp. 37-57, 79-97, 115-129
Topic: New Guinea & Island Melanesia: Intro to areas and themes - Body Decoration, Big Men, Exchange, Masks, Men’s Houses
Annotated Bibliography Due/Contemporary Work selected – due by email

Feb. 25 Topic: New Guinea & Island Melanesia continued
Discussion: First Contact

March 4: Kula:Ring of Power (watch video) http://www.joost.com/351ksc0/t/Kula-Ring-of-Power?id=351ksc0
Topic: New Guinea & Island Melanesia continued

March 11 - Visit Peabody Museum – Harvard Meet at Museum 12:30-1:00

March 18 – NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

March 25 - Reading: D’Alleva, pp. 95-147; Thomas, pp.98-114
Topic: Polynesia/Micronesia: Intro to themes - Ancestor Figures, Ceremonial Houses, Body Decoration
First Draft of your paper due March 27th by email.

April 1 – Reading: Thomas, pp. 131-149
Topic: Textiles – Guest Lecturer Ping-Ann Addo (UMass Boston) Date subject to change http://www.umb.edu/academics/clas/dept/anthropology/faculty/addo.html

April 8 - Reading: Thomas, pp. 151-164, 58-78
Topic: Arts of Hawaii and the Maori
Museum Intervention Scheme due April 10

April 15 - Reading: Thomas, 165-208; D’Alleva, pp. 148-159
Topic: Issues in Contemporary Oceanic Art
Comparison/Intervention PDFs for Viewing due April 17

April 22 - Viewing: Traditional Contemporary pairings/Intervention pdfs
Take Home Quiz: Island Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia
Quiz and Revised Papers Due April 30 by email