Human Biology of the Pacific

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Course Contents

- A regional and thematic perspective on the human biology and physical anthropology of the Pacific
- geography, prehistory, culture, and languages of the Pacific
- Polynesian phenotype
- "cold adaptation hypothesis"
- skeletal and dental records
- Lapita skeletons
- Molecular genetics
- health and disease
- Malaria
- Kuru
- ALS-PD in the Marianas
- Bioarchaeology

Course Syllabus


Weekly Writing Assignments (12%)
Map Quiz (5%) January 31
Mid-Term Exam: (20%) Feb 28
Annotated Bibliography Assignment (10%) Mar 14
Research paper (25%) Apr 30
Oral presentation (8%)
Final Exam (20%) May 9
Pietrusewsky

• Ph.D. 1969
• University of Toronto
• The physical anthropology of early Tongan populations: a study of bones and teeth and an assessment of their biological affinities based on cranial comparisons with eight other Pacific populations.

Bioarchaeology

• The study of human skeletal remains from archaeological sites for investigating lifestyles and bio-cultural adaptations of past peoples.
  - Paleodemography
  - Paleopathology
  - Violence and trauma
  - Diet
  - Growth & development: skeletal & dental
  - Health and environmental/culture changes
  - Biohistory: distances studies using metric and nonmetric skeletal/dental data

Papua New Guinea 1971

Ban Chiang

• Initial Period of occupation (? - 2100 BCE) to the Late Period (300 BCE - 200 CE)
**Museum Research: Europe**

Musée de l'Homme, Paris
Museum für Volkerkunde Dresden
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
Anatomisches Institut Berlin
Anatomisches Institut Leipzig
University of Tübingen
University Göttingen
University Zürich
University Basel
Natural History Museum, London

**Australia**


**Lapita & Post-Lapita Skeletons**

- Natunuku, Fiji
- Watom Is. and Tonga
- Koné, New Caledonia
- Y2-25, Waya Island, Fiji

**Palau**
Most Recent Work

Lapita skeletons from Watom Is, New Britain, Papua New Guinea (U. Otago 2012)
Skeletons from Guam, Tinian, and Saipan Islands in Mariana Islands

Map of the Pacific