

COURSE DETAIL

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF MELANESIA

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

London School of Economics

Program(s)

London School of Economics

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

119

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF MELANESIA

UCEAP Transcript Title

ANTHRO OF MELANESIA

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to selected themes in the anthropology of the region in the Southwest Pacific Ocean known as Melanesia. It gives students a grounding in the contemporary anthropology of the region, primarily through a close reading of three book-length ethnographies. The three ethnographies, which are all new since 2013, are Christopher Wright's *THE ECHO OF THINGS*, an account of what photography means to people in the western Solomon Islands; Alice Street's *BIOMEDICINE IN AN UNSTABLE PLACE*, an analysis of how persons and diseases are made visible or invisible in a hospital on the north coast of Papua New Guinea; and Maggie Wilson's *A TRUE CHILD OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA* (edited by Rosita Henry), the part-memoir/part-"ethnographic biography" of a woman who lived between "two worlds," that of her mother, a New Guinea Highlander, and that of her father, an Australian colonist. These ethnographies not only provide students with focused accounts of three very different contexts in Melanesia, they also address histories, dynamics, and concerns familiar to people living throughout the region. Engagement with these three books is enhanced and supplemented by other readings (including works by Pacific Islanders), ethnographic films, and a visit to the British Museum.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

AN205

Host Institution Course Title

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF MELANESIA

Host Institution Campus

London School of Economics

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Anthropology

[Print](#)