

GEOG 20

The Geography of Surfing

Spring 2008

Lecture MW 5:00-6:15, IV Theater 1

Office hours: TW 1:00-2:00pm

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Assistant: Frank Davenport (frank_davenport@umail.ucsb.edu). Office hours: M3:45-4:45, T2-3.

Required Texts

1. Butt, Tony, Paul Russell, and Rick Grigg (2004) *Surf Science: An Introduction to Waves for Surfing*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
2. The *GEOGRAPHY 20 Course Reader* is available at The Alternative Copy Shop (6556 Pardall Road, Isla Vista).

Course Description

To surf is to explore, to connect with nature, and to embed oneself in history. Surfing, in one respect, is simply a recreational sport, but it is also ...a multi-billion dollar global industry, a reflection of global climate patterns interacting with reef formation and sedimentation, a globalizing culture diffusing from strong regional identities, and a reason to travel to exotic locations and explore the planet. This course uses a geographic perspective to study the many facets of the sport. Geography provides a perfect set of tools to study surfing ranging from the propagation of swells to the diffusion of culture. The goal of the course is to introduce students to geographic approaches to understanding human cultural patterns, physical processes, and their dynamic interactions.

The course covers a diverse set of surfing topics including the cultural history of the sport; the physical processes involved in ocean wave generation, wave refraction, and breaking waves; the surf industry in the context of local and global development; and the spatial behavior of surfers – localism. Within each of the topical domains I will emphasize geography concepts – scale, interaction, regions, location – and the geographers approach to understanding. In addition to the topical domains the course will include two regional foci: Oceania and Central America.

Student Evaluation

There will be a midterm exam (Monday **4/28**) worth 45 percent of your grade and a final exam (Tuesday **6/10**, 7:30-10:30pm) worth 55 percent of your grade. The final will be cumulative but will emphasize material after the midterm. Exams will include true-false questions, multiple-choice questions, and matching questions. The matching questions will be used to evaluate your grasp of the two regional sections: Australia/Pacific Island and Central America. Students are required to bring a ParSCORE sheet to the exams (the pink scantron, Form No. F-1712-PAR-L). Study guides will be distributed on the course web page prior to each exam.

Film Segments

Film and photography has been a dominant cultural feature of modern surfing. In the past, the course had a discussion section devoted to surf films. The sections never worked as planned for several reasons. This year I will be integrating segments from surf films into the lectures. This is technically feasible because of The Surf Network (www.thesurfnetwork.com) since they sell surf movies and documentaries that can be downloaded and accessed from iTunes. The film segments will not be available from the course webpage since they are copyrighted material. I will always include a film source statement in the course notes so that you can purchase the film from the Surf Network or on DVD if you choose.

Guest Speakers

Each year I try to arrange for at least one guest speaker. Since we are living in one of the culture hearths of the sport it makes sense to take advantage of our location and to invite individuals that are part of the history of the

sport. This year we will have two guest speaking dates: 1) 4/14 -- *Shaun Tomson* and 2) 5/12 – *Britt Caillouette* and *Nicholai Lidow*. Mr. Tomson was the 1977 World Champion of the International Professional Surfing tour, he was a professional surfer on the World Tour from 1976-1989, and he was instrumental in the creation of professional surfing. He lives in Santa Barbara and directs the Solitude apparel company and is involved in several environmental and educational outreach efforts. Mr. Caillouette and Mr. Lidow are filmmakers and graduate students at Stanford University. They released the film *Sliding Liberia* that screened at the 2008 Santa Barbara Film Festival. The speakers are not paid and it is extremely disrespectful to them, and me, if you fail to show up on these days. Please show up and participate in the question-answer sessions.

Open Podium Day

I try to minimize travel conflicts but this quarter I have to be out of town on 4/28-4/30 for professional service duties. The midterm is on 4/28. On Wednesday, 4/30, I will turn over the class podium to any students in the class that would like to show photos or videos from their own surf trips or to relate their own surf/travel stories. I know it is daunting to get up in front of 500 people but if you think you will be interested you need to make arrangements with the T.A. (Frank Davenport) before the end of the third week of classes. Send Frank an email with your name, describe what you want to present, and give him an estimate of how long it will take to present.

Summary Lecture Schedule Spring 2008

<u>No.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	M	3/31	Introduction (I)
2	W	4/2	History/Culture (II.1-II.2)
3	M	4/7	History/Culture (II.3-II.4)
4	W	4/9	History/Culture (II.4-II.5)
5	M	4/14	Guest Speaker: Shaun Tomson - <i>Finding the pure line on the world's best wall</i>
6	W	4/16	Oceania/Pacific Region (II.6)
7	M	4/21	Ocean Regions and Global Climate Circulation (III.1)
8	W	4/23	Ocean Regions and Global Climate Circulation (III.1) cont.
9	M	4/28	Midterm Exam
10	W	4/30	Open Podium Day -- see syllabus description
11	M	5/5	Winds and Waves (III.2-III.3)
12	W	5/7	Winds and Waves (III.3-III.4)
13	M	5/12	Guest Speakers: Britt Caillouette & Nicholai Lidow - <i>Sliding Liberia</i>
14	W	5/14	Surf Tourism and Sustainable Development (IV.1)
15	M	5/19	Surf Tourism and Sustainable Development (IV.1) cont.
16	W	5/21	Surf Industry - Boards (IV.1-IV.2)
17	M	5/26	Holiday - Memorial Day
18	W	5/28	Central America Region (IV.4)
19	M	6/2	Territoriality/Localism (V.1)
20	W	6/4	Territoriality/Localism (V.1) cont.
21	T	6/10	Final Exam, Tuesday, 6/10, 7:30-10:30pm, IV Theater 1

Note: The numbers inside parentheses indicate section headings from the TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS page. For example, in preparation for lecture on Wednesday 4/2, you should read material from II.1 (Haggett) and II.2 (Kirch, Matisoo-Smith, Friedlaender).

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Readings marked by an asterisk (*) are optional and are included here as background material. They either add more depth or provide an interesting perspective.

I. INTRODUCTION

Haggett, P. (2001). Chapter 1: On the beach. Geography: A Global Synthesis, Prentice Hall: 2-31.

II. SURFING CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SPATIAL DIFFUSION

1. THEORY

Haggett, P. (2001). Chapter 7: Cultural diversities. Geography: A Global Synthesis, Prentice Hall: 202-213. (note: The whole chapter is included in the reader. Only read sections 7.1 and 7.2 covering pages 202-213)

2. HISTORY: POLYNESIA & CULTURAL ORIGINS OF SURFING

Kirch, P. (2000) Chapter 9. Big Structures and Large Processes in Oceanic Prehistory. On the Road of the Winds. Los Angeles, University of California Press: 302-325.

Matisoo-Smith, E. et al. (1998) "Patterns of prehistoric human mobility in Polynesia indicated by mtDNA from the Pacific rat." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - USA 95: 15145-15150.

Friedlaender, J. et al. (2008) "The Genetic Structure of Pacific Islanders." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - Genetics 4(1): 0173-0190

* Hurles, M. et al. (2003) "Untangling Oceanic settlement: the edge of the knowable." Trends in Ecology and Evolution 18 (10) : 531-540. (Accessible from library computers: <http://www.sciencedirect.com>)

3. HISTORY: FIRST CONTACT & DECLINE

Moser, P. (2008) "First Contact Revisited." Surfer's Journal 17(1): 10-11.

Kampion, D. (2003). The seed culture. Stoked! A history of surf culture. Salt Lake City, Gibbs Smith: 31-36.

4. HISTORY: SURFING RENAISSANCE

Smith, J. T. (2003). "Reinventing the sport: Part I -- Jack London." Surfer's Journal 12(1): 26-31.

Smith, J. T. (2003). "Reinventing the sport: Part II -- Alexander Hume Ford." Surfer's Journal 12(2): 30-35.

Smith, J. T. (2003). "Reinventing the sport: Part III -- George Freeth." Surfer's Journal 12(3): 90-95.

Kampion, D. (2003). The seed culture. Stoked! A history of surf culture. Salt Lake City, Gibbs Smith: 37-68.

*Croul, S. et al. (2001). 7. Surfer lifestyle pioneer. Tom Blake: The uncommon journey of a pioneer waterman. Corona del Mar, California, Croul Family Foundation: 61-68.

5. HISTORY: MODERN SURFING

Kampion, D. (2003). The boom culture. Stoked! A history of surf culture. Salt Lake City, Gibbs Smith: 69-112.

Tomson, S. (with P. Moser) (2006) Lesson 2: I will paddle around the impact zone. Surfer's Code, 12 Simple Lessons for Riding Through Life. Salt Lake City, Gibbs Smith Publisher: 36-43.

Walding, M. (2002). "Lo-Fi and virtual disco, 40 years of surfing, surf mags, and youth culture." Surfing World 40th Anniversary Issue: 110-113.

6. REGIONAL FOCUS: AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PACIFIC

Colas, A. (2001). Australia. The world stormrider guide, Volume 1. Cornwall, Low Pressure Ltd.

Colas, A. (2001). Pacific Islands. The world stormrider guide, Volume 1. Cornwall, Low Pressure Ltd.

Tomson, M. (2000). "The Horror. Deconstructing Teahupoo." Surfer's Journal 9(3): 10-27.

III. OCEAN WAVES AND SURF FORECASTING

1. OCEAN REGIONS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE PATTERNS

Ch. 1 "The Paradox of Impossible Knowledge" from **Surf Science**

Ch. 2 "Large-Scale Weather Patterns" from **Surf Science**

Colas, A. (2001). Meteorology and oceanography. The world stormrider guide, Volume 1. Cornwall, Low Pressure Ltd.

2. SURFACE WINDS AND PRESSURE CHARTS

Ch. 3 "The Formation of a Depression" from **Surf Science**

*Ahrens, D. (1991). Chapter 10. The atmosphere in motion -- Charts, forces, and winds. Meteorology Today: An introduction to weather, climate, and the environment. New York, West Publishing Company: 241-264.

3. OCEAN WAVES I: OPEN OCEAN WAVES

- Ch. 4 "The Growth of Ocean Waves" from **Surf Science**
- Ch. 5 "Propagation of Free-Traveling Swell" from **Surf Science**

4. OCEAN WAVES II: NEAR SHORE WAVES

- Ch. 6 "Refraction" from **Surf Science**
- Ch. 7 "Wave-Breaking" from **Surf Science**
- Butt, T. (2004). "Rocky Reefs -- Hard as stone, but we love 'em." *The Surfer's Path* 41(March/April): 64-67.
- Hauser, H. (2003). "In the basements of skyscrapers." *Surfer's Journal* 12(3): 46-57.

5. WAVE CLIMATE, MEASUREMENT, AND FORECASTING (not covered, Spring 2008)

- *Ch. 14 "Forecasting" from **Surf Science**
- *Butt, T. (2006). "The Hidden Picture." *The Surfer's Path* 54(May/June): 34-38.

IV. SURF INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1. SURF TOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Potter, R. B., T. Binns, et al. (1999). Chapter 4. Globalisation and development. *Geographies of Development*. New York, Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.: 75-103.
- Buckley, R. (2002). "Surf tourism and sustainable development in Indo-Pacific islands. I. The industry and the islands." *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 10(5): 405-424.
- Osnos, E. (2006). Papua New Guinea longs for wave of prosperity. *Santa Barbara News-Press*. Santa Barbara: D-15.

2. SURFBOARD MANUFACTURING

- Croul, S. et al. (2001). 11 Commercial boards. *Tom Blake: The uncommon journey of a pioneer waterman*. Corona del Mar, California, Croul Family Foundation: 95-122.
- Noll, G. and A. Gabbard (1989). Evolution of the modern surfboard. *Da Bull, Life over the edge*. Berkeley, CA, North Atlantic Books: 93-100.
- Noll, G. and A. Gabbard (1989). Industry and image. *Da Bull, Life over the edge*. Berkeley, CA, North Atlantic Books: 111-120.
- Finnegan, W. (2006). "Blank Monday. Will surfing ever be the same?" *The New Yorker* August, 21: 36-43.
- Gray, M. (2006). "Shapers getting squeezeed." *The Surfer's Path* 53(March/April): 48-57.

3. REGIONAL FOCUS: CENTRAL AMERICA

- Colas, A. (2001). Central America and the Caribbean. *The world stormrider guide, Volume 1*. Cornwall, Low Pressure Ltd.
- Walker, M. (2006). "El Confessor. Atoning for surfers' sins in Nicaragua." *The Surfer's Path* 52(Jan/Feb): 64-75.

V. TERRITORIALITY IN SURFING

1. LOCALISM

- Sweeney, S. (2004). The Spatial Behavior of Surfers. *GEOG 20: The Geography of Surfing*. Santa Barbara, University of California: 1-10.
 - Jarvis, C. (2000). Imported surf rage. *Surf Rage*. N. Young. Angourie, NSW, Nymboida Pres: 157-177.
 - *Walker, I. (2005) "Terrorism of Native Protest? The Hui 'O He'e Nalu and Hawaiian Resistance to Colonialism." *Pacific Historical Review* 74(4): 575-601
- (Accessible from library computers:
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdlink?index=2&did=1391019401&SrchMode=1&sid=3&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1206911180&clientId=1563>)