The Geography of Surfing

Winter 2006
Lecture MW 5:00-6:15, Broida Hall
Discussion / Film M 6:30-7:30, Buchanan Hall 1910

Web page: www.geog.ucsb.edu/~sweeney/g20/g20.htm

Office hours: Tuesdays 11-12:30 and Wednesdays 10-11:30 or by appointment.

Assistant: Benjamin Turner, Ellison Hall 4721, Office hours: Mondays 3-4:30, Thursdays 2-3:20, email: turner@geog.ucsb.edu.

Required Texts:

Course reader will be available at The Alternative Copy Shop (6556 Pardall Road, Isla Vista) after 4pm on Tuesday, 1/9.

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 the core analytical approaches used in Geography. Specific learning objectives will be provided for each of the four major topical areas covered during the course.

Section
The course has a required section that will be used to screen surf films that are of historic, cultural, or scientific interest. A viewing guide will be available for review before each film. There will be some questions on each exam from the films. The films will not be on reserve and will not be circulated.

Student Evaluation
There will be two midterm exams (1/29 and 2/26) each worth 30 percent of your grade. The final exam (3/21, 7:30-10:30pm) will be worth 40 percent of your grade. The final will be cumulative but will emphasize material after the second midterm. Exams will be primarily in the form of multiple-choice tests. Students are required to bring a ParSCORE sheet (the pink scantron, Form No. F-1712-PAR-L) to each of the three exams.
# Summary Lecture / Section Schedule
## Winter 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Section</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Introduction (I)</td>
<td>no section</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>History/Culture (II.1 - II.2)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1/15</td>
<td><strong>Holiday - MLK Jr. Day</strong></td>
<td>no section</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>History/Culture (II.2-III.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>History/Culture (II.4)</td>
<td><em>Five Summer Stories</em></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Oceania/Pacific Region (II.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Exam 1 - History and Cultural Diffusion</td>
<td><em>Surfer's Journal:</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(G-land, Tavarua, Bell's)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Waves (III.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Waves (III.2)</td>
<td><em>Student's Choice</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>Waves (III.2 -III.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Waves (III.4)</td>
<td><em>Making the Call</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Waves /Regional (III.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td><strong>Holiday - Presidents Day</strong></td>
<td>no section</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>North Atlantic / UK Region (III.6)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Exam 2 - Ocean Waves / Forecasting</td>
<td><em>Glass Love</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2/28</td>
<td>Surf Industry - Boards (IV.1-IV.2)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Surf Industry - Travel (IV.3)</td>
<td><em>The Search</em></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Surf Industry / Central America Region (IV.3-Iv.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Territoriality (V.1)</td>
<td><em>Student's Choice</em></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Territoriality / East Asia (V.1-V.2)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM 7:30-10:30pm</strong></td>
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TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SURFING CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SPATIAL DIFFUSION

1. THEORY

2. HISTORY: SURFING ORIGINS

3. HISTORY: SURFING RENAISSANCE

4. HISTORY: MODERN SURFING

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

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

2. SURFACE WINDS AND PRESSURE CHARTS
Ch. 3 “The Formation of a Depression” from Surf Science
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

5. WAVE CLIMATE, MEASUREMENT, AND FORECASTING
   Ch. 13 “Wave climate” from Surf Science
   Ch. 14 “Forecasting” from Surf Science

6. REGIONAL FOCUS: NORTH ATLANTIC / NORTH SEA

IV. SURF INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1. HISTORY OF SURFBOARD MANUFACTURING

2. CLOSING OF CLARK FOAM

3. SURF TOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4. REGIONAL FOCUS: CENTRAL AMERICA

V. TERRITORIALITY IN SURFING

1. LOCALISM

2. REGIONAL FOCUS: EAST ASIA