Winward Community College Hula Syllabus – Spring 2017

HWST 130 - INTRODUCTION TO HAWAIIAN DANCE (3.0 credits), CRN 64274

Instructor: Kumu Hula Sky Gora Office Hours: by appt.

Office Location: Hale Ao 105

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WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

In this class students will learn various traditional hula interpretations. Students will be taught the basic foot work and hand gestures of traditional hula accompanied by chanting, Ipu Heke (double gourd) or Pahu (drum). Students may also be required to make accompanying instruments, like Ipu (smaller single gourd), Kāla'au (sticks), 'Ili'ili (stones), and Pū'ili (split bamboo), and learn accompanying oli (chants) under the direction of the class instructor. Students will be taught different historical aspects of specific hula, associated hula mythology, aliʻi (chiefly) genealogies; plants, and place names.

There will be a final class performance at the end of the semester to be determined by the Instructor. This performance will count as a part of your final grade.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Students will learn a basic understanding of the differences between traditional and more modern styles of hula including the significance of hula as part of Hawaiian culture in traditional times.

2. Students will learn the histories and mythologies behind the creation and performance of various hula.
3. Students will learn how to perform several hula in unison, and the relationship between movements with the significance of lyrical content in a mele or oli combined with the occasions for which one is dancing.
4. Students will learn how to prepare adornments for their specific hula.

Grading:

Quizzes 10
Essays / homework 20
Participation 30
Performance 40

GENERAL COMMENTS

Extra Credit

Students can get extra credit if they participate in an activity or event outside of class time that is pre-approved by email by the instructor that is related to the content area taught in Hawaiian Studies.

All mele hula and mele oli are presented in the Hawaiian Language though taught in English. In other words, the texts of the mele are in the Hawaiian Language, but instruction is in English.
Course Expectations:

- Hula and perform for a public audience each mele hula and mele oli taught • Write and convey verbally the kāhea (call) for each mele taught
- Provide English translation for each mele taught (Learn history of the hula (Hawaiian dance); and the structure of the hālau (school of Hawaiian dance), & hālau protocol,
  - Learn and demonstrate oli (chant)
  - Learn to distinguish between hula kahiko (ancient style dance) and hula ʻauana (modern style dance)
  - Demonstrate basic movements of the hula
- Identify and perform the basic hula steps
- Learn how hula and mele (song/chant text) are categorized
- Demonstrate lei making skills.
- In most cases, students learn combinations of skills throughout the semester and these skills build upon each other.

The Course Structure

Below is a tentative outline of the activities for this class. We will hold to them as much as possible but given the range of skill level of individuals in this dance class, I ask that you be very flexible when changes (such as choreography, movements and times) occur. In the performing arts world, changes happen rather rapidly and your ability to be adaptable can only enhance and enrich your experience. That being said come prepared to hula, to learn and have fun!

Kuleana

- Kuleana is expected of each student as noted below. That is, you are responsible for the work in this course. You are in a college-
level class whereby the expectations of your academic performance are high. Moreover, in Hawaiian culture, kuleana is paramount for everyone – with knowledge comes power, and with power comes responsibility. Everyone has knowledge and therefore, everyone has responsibility.

• In addition to the content of the class, you will be learning about your responsibilities to the task at hand. Part of that Kuleana is maintaining pono—the Hawaiian value of balance, harmony, and rightness (moral code); for that is the ultimate daily kuleana. With every issue, assignment, circumstance that is part of the class curriculum, you should distinguish whether a situation is pono – if it isn’t, how can you ho‘oponopono the situation, or bring pono back.

1) Class Behavior
   o Respect for your fellow classmates and the instructor is paramount. Inconsiderate & disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. If your behavior disrupts the class, you will be asked to leave and if appropriate, campus security will be called to extract you from class. All conversation will take place courteously.

2) Electronic Devices
   o All cell phones, MP3s, gameboys, PDAs, ipods, and any other electronic devices must be turned OFF at the start of each class. If you must answer a call or are compelled to text, excuse yourself & leave the classroom. Moreover, if you intend to record my lectures or any class activity, you must receive permission from myself and any other individual involved.

3) Tardiness: Habitual tardiness is not encouraged. You will need to decide whether you will stay in this class and be on time or not. If you come to class late, you must kahea before entering.
4) Attendance: **THIS IS A DEAL BREAKER!!**

- Regular attendance and class participation are crucial for success in this course.
- Once in class, all students are expected to remain until the end of class.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class through a sign-in sheet. It will be your kuleana to sign the attendance sheet.
- You can miss **THREE** classes without penalty. After **THREE**, I reserve the right to lower your grade at my discretion. This means that your final semester grade WILL drop one full letter grade. Note that this policy does not distinguish “excused” from “unexcused” absences—such a distinction puts me in a role I do not want to play. In other words, **ALL ABSENCES**, whether they concern health, medical, military, work or personal circumstances are counted.
- In the event of your absence from class, you will be responsible for any assignments, announcements, or changes made. I do not give a “second” lecture on topics already covered. Use these allowed absences wisely.
- You are expected to contribute to class discussions particularly when called upon.

5) **Course Expectations: DO THE READINGS!!**

- Good note-taking skills are essential for success in this course. Therefore, each student should keep a bound class journal or notebook in which she or he will record all pertinent data gathered from the course lectures, readings, and discussions. In all likelihood, you will find that the organization, thoroughness, and clarity of your notes will be directly related to the quality of your performance in this course.
o It is your ultimate responsibility to understand course contents and meet all deadlines. Failure to do so will jeopardize your success in this course.

o If you do not understand the contents or any part of the lectures, or videos, ask me anytime during the semester.

o **Spelling:** This is a hula class whereby Hawaiian words are prominent. All Hawaiian words, names and terms should be spelled correctly. Points will be deducted from quizzes and papers for any words misspelled including English words where appropriate. For proper spelling of Hawaiian words, please consult the *Hawaiian Dictionary* and *Place Names of Hawai‘i*, both of which are available in the library or for purchase.

6) Email or texting

o I get a lot of emails and it's important for me to be able to prioritize them effectively to ensure I can respond quickly to my students' questions. Here's how you can help! When you send me an email, please be sure to include your class and first and last name in the subject heading. A proper subject line looks like this: "HWST 130 B. Kealoha."

o If I do not reply to your email within 24 hours *during the work week*, assume I did not receive it and resend. You can also text me on my cell (808) 384-4846. I check my email from Monday to Thursday. I am not on campus on Fridays. If you email me on Fridays, I will not return your email until Monday afternoon or later. Thus, urgent matters should be discussed face-to-face, or text me.

**Assignments**

1. **Quizzes**
   Short quizzes will be given on the following:

   a. Kāhea from each mele hula you learn
b. English translations for each mele learned

c. Hula steps

d. Oli

2. One page essays on the mele that you are learning.

a. You are to research relevant topics associated with the Mele that you are being taught and turn in a 1 page typewritten essay. It needs to be in 12pt font, double spaced, with your name in the top left hand corner. Any sources that you use will need to be cited and a bibliography attached.

3. Class Participation

a. This means attending all classes and participating in the required activities to include hula movements, lei making, and being ready to respond to questions when called upon.

4. Performance

a. To receive a passing grade you will be required to dance in the final public performance.

Failure to participate in this performance means you will receive an “F” for the course.

Late Paper Policy

All papers will be collected in class on the date they are due. The 1 page essays will be assessed penalty points of five (5) points per day for each day late to include weekends, holidays & non- instructional days. I will not accept any e-mailed versions. Late papers are defined as those not turned in at class time.
**Required Dress & Instrument:**

- Pa’u = Practice Skirt, bring this to every class if you have one.
- Costume for Performance: Hula top & Pa’u, or possibly ti leaf skirt. You are responsible for the making of your costume. (In the event we need to have more costumes). Materials to be supplied by WCC. All costumes are the property of WCC. (except for the ti leaf skirt).

**Tentative List of:**

Mele Hula/ Mele Oli  
(this could change, so be flexible):

Kunihi o Keahiakahoe  
Kahiko Exercises 1 thru Ua hana

Mamala  
He’eia  
No Luna

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**Week 1**  
**Introductions**  
**Basic Steps / Foundation / Oli**

**Week 2**  
exercises 1– ua hana / Oli Quiz

**Week 3**  
Exercises 1– ua hana / Mamala  
Essay on basic steps  
Lei making

**Week 4**  
Exercises 1–Ua Hana Lei making  
Essay on all exercises
Week 5
Mamala / 1 page essay on Mamala

Week 6
Quiz on Mamala
He‘eia

Week 7
He‘eia / 1 page essay on He‘eia

Week 8
No Luna
Quiz on He‘eia

Week 9
No Luna / 1 page essay on No Luna
lei making

Week 10
No‘Luna
Quiz on No Luna

Week 11
Work on all mele

Week 12
Auana

Week 13
Auana

Week 14
Review for Performance

• Week 15
  Review for Performance Lei Making Performance