

HWST 273 (CRN:60592) Tattoo Traditions of Polynesia
Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:45

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Tricia Allen
OFFICE: Hale A'o 117
OFFICE HOURS: Tues 1:00-2:00pm
Thurs 10:30-11:30 or by appointment
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2014

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

This course provides an overview of the traditional tattoo practices of the various Polynesian islands within the context of the greater Pacific. The focus is primarily historic with the goal of providing the students an understanding of the ancient practices within each of the individual Polynesian island groups. The final weeks will be an overview of the revival of the practice and a discussion of controversial issues surrounding the art. There will be no actual tattooing occurring in this course.

Activities Will Be Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

Students are expected to visit a minimum of one museum, library or archive (UHM Pacific/Hawaiian collection, the Hawai'i State Archives, Bernice P. Bishop Museum Library and Archive, the Mission Houses Museum library and/or the Honolulu Museum of Art) outside of scheduled class times in order to complete their term paper.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Students will get a brief overview and basic understanding of the migrations and peopling of the Pacific focusing on the ancestral connections between the Pacific peoples and continuity in the tattoo practices of Pacific cultures.
2. Students will learn the difference between primary and secondary source material and the significance of working off original documents whenever possible.
3. By the completion of the course, students will recognize the differences between the distinct tattoo styles of each of the primary Polynesian island groups and have some insight and understanding of what tattoos represented within their respective cultural contexts.
4. A 6 to 8 page (double spaced) referenced research paper will familiarize students with using primary source material held in special collections and museums on O'ahu (see above).

COURSE CONTENT

Concepts or Topics

- **Overview of Pacific migrations**
- **The development of distinct cultural traits within each of the Polynesian island groups.**
- **Tattoo and its role within the socio-political systems of the various island cultures.**
- **The techniques, materials utilized and tools specific to each island group.**

Skills or Competencies

- **Gaining an understanding of Polynesian prehistory and migrations.**
- **Identification of the stylistic distinctions of each of the major island groups tattoo traditions.**
- **Distinguishing between primary and secondary source material.**
- **Basic use of a specialized library or collection, such as the Bishop Museum library and Archive.**

COURSE TASKS AND GRADING

Grading is on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points.

Attendance is necessary and will count for up to 30 possible points.

A total of 3 periodic quizzes will account for up to 30 possible points.

A 6 to 8 page (double spaced) research paper will be required that will introduce the students to working in a library or archive, rather than simply using the internet and secondary sources. This paper will account for up to 20 possible points.

A final exam to be taken in Laulima at the testing center will account for 20 possible points.

The final exam is scheduled for Thurs, May 15, 11:30-1:30. You must complete the final by no later than May 15th 1:30pm, although you may take it earlier. Check in at the testing center anytime after Monday May 11th 12:00 noon and before the scheduled final exam time. Please allow at least 1.5 hours to complete the test.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS:

Three extra credit assignments worth up to 5 points each will be announced in class and in Laulima.

The "N" grade will not be given except in the specific circumstances described in the WCC catalog.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required reading materials will be available for purchase in a reading packet at the bookstore. Books will be placed on hold in the library for required and additional reading, including optional reading.

Reading assignments for weeks 1 and 2 and other supplemental materials will be online on Laulima.

Students are expected to check Laulima Resources and Modules on a regular basis and keep up with assigned readings and videos.

Some independent reading and library/archival research will be required.

COURSE POLICIES

Preparedness. All class assignments are to be done *before* class begins to receive full credit. You are advised to take notes and bring any questions or comments to class. Good notes will also help you tremendously on the quizzes and exams

Attendance and participation. Class time is most useful and enjoyable when good discussions take place, both in large and small groups. Thinking and being prepared do not constitute participation, although they certainly help. Please participate in discussions. Also, kindly turn off all cell phones during class. Please be on time so as not to disrupt others. Repeated tardiness may lower your attendance grade.

Make-up work. Tests cannot be made up except in the case of a *documented* emergency. Assignments submitted late (without prior approval) will be docked 10% for each week past the due date.

Writing. Developing good writing skills (grammar, spelling, organization, expression) is an important outcome of not only this course, but your college experience in general. If you are not confident in your writing ability, please obtain feedback on your work before turning it in. I encourage you to utilize The Learning Center and its resources, as well as the expertise of library staff. I am available to assist with writing and language issues. *Plagiarism* will earn in zero points on the assignment.

Quizzes. All quizzes are in Laulima and can be taken either on your home computer or at the testing center or the computer labs on campus. Quizzes will be brief and consist of multiple choice, short answers, and identification of individual island styles drawing upon reading material, lectures and films. The quizzes will be accessible for approximately a 48 hour period and are open-book so you may use your notes and reader. You may take each quiz only once, but you may go back and forth while taking the quiz to review your earlier responses.

Exam. The final exam may consist of multiple choice, short answers, and identification of individual island styles, and/or several brief essay questions drawing upon reading material, lectures and films. The final exam is in Laulima and must be taken at the testing center. This is not an open book exam, but you will be allowed one page (front and back) of hand-written notes. You must complete the final exam prior to the end time of the scheduled final exam time slot for this course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS AND THE PACIFIC CONTEXT

Week 1: 1/14, 1/16 The geography, physical environment of the Pacific.

The prehistory and peopling of the Pacific: mapping migrations via archaeology, linguistic and cultural traits, primarily tattoo. The development of distinct cultural traits within each of the primary Polynesian groups, including materials and environments. Reading assignments for the first week are posted in Laulima.

Week 2: 1/21, 1/23 Polynesian concepts related to tattoo: kapu/noa, ao/po, etc.

Gender distinctions in tattoo practices—an overview.

Accuracy in ethnohistoric sources, primary vs. secondary sources.

Quiz #1

EARLY TATTOO PRACTICES OF POLYNESIA

Week 3: 1/28, 1/30 Introduction to Samoan tattoo

Week 4: 2/4, 2/6 Samoan tattoo continued

Fijian and Tongan tattoo

Additional reading materials online; please see the links posted in Laulima.

- Week 5: 2/11, 2/13 The Polynesian Outliers: Tikopia, Rennell, Bellona, Ontong Java
 Additional reading materials; please see the links posted in Laulima.
 discussion of research papers
 Quiz #2
- Week 6: 2/18, 2/20 The Cook Islands
 Introduction to Tahiti and the Society Islands
 Summary of proposed research paper due
- Week 7: 2/25, 2/27 The Society Islands
 The Tuamotus and Mangareva
 Additional reading materials online at Laulima.
- Week 8: 3/4, 3/6 The Marquesas
- Week 9: 3/11, 3/13 Rapa Nui (Easter Island)
 Aotearoa (New Zealand)
- Week 10: 3/18, 3/20: Hawai'i

3/25, 3/27 SPRING RECESS

THE POLYNESIAN TATTOO TODAY

- Week 11: 4/1, 4/3 Film: O Le Tatau: What One Must Do
 The revival in Samoa
 RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
- Week 12: 4/8, 4/10 The revival in Tonga , Fiji
 The revival in Aotearoa
- Week 13: 4/15, 4/17 The Tahitian and Marquesan Revivals
- Week 14: 4/22, 4/24 The Hawaiian revival
- Week 15: 4/29, 5/1 The appropriation of Polynesian design elsewhere and other ethical issues.
- Week 16: 5/6 Review for final
 FINAL EXAM

This syllabus is subject to changes and revisions.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.