

PACS 108: Pacific Worlds: An Introduction to Pacific Islands Studies

3 Credits Fall Semester, 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Tricia Allen

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Classroom: Online

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 situates Hawai'i in the larger context of Oceania and exposes students to issues, themes, values, and practices across the region. It also introduces students to the geography, societies, histories, cultures, and arts of Oceania, including Hawai'i. This course combines lecture and discussion that emphasize Pacific Islander perspectives and experiences.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Locate and name the island groups, geographic regions, and political entities of Oceania.
2. Describe social and cultural similarities and differences among Pacific Island societies.
3. Identify themes in the works of Pacific Island artists and writers.
4. Discuss contemporary social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues in the Pacific Islands.
5. Explain significant themes in indigenous, colonial, and postcolonial histories of the Pacific Islands.

Content and Competencies *This course is organized in six parts:*

Concepts or Topics

- I. Boarding the Wa'a: Navigating and Mapping Oceania
- II. Routes and Roots: Oceanic Origins and Traditions
- III. Waves of Power: Religion, Colonialism and Development
- IV. Countercurrents: Contemporary Pacific Cultures
- V. Niu Waves: Oceanic Arts and Literature
- VI. Pacific Worlds: Arriving on Distant Shores

Skills or Competencies

1. Identify features of the basic geography and demography of the Pacific Islands;
2. Describe the prehistory, migration routes, and theories of settlement of the Pacific;
3. Describe basic ecological, political, cultural, and social effects of contact on each region;
4. Critically discuss issues about popular representations of the Pacific.
5. Display the intellectual rigor associated with Pacific Studies through formal presentations, informal discussions, literary works, and/or artistic expressions, and discuss real life applications to Pacific Studies.
6. Locate and utilize a range of local, regional, and international resources for research on the Pacific region.

General Notes

1. You will be required to use your UH email address as all announcements and pertinent information will be sent to that address. I understand most of you probably have a personal email that you prefer, but it is required that you check your UH Gmail account regularly.
2. *Laulima* will be used extensively during this course. You are responsible to checking both *Laulima* and your UH e-mail to stay abreast of assignments, due dates and such. Our weekly schedule and a brief summary of topics and a listing of assignments for the week are posted in *Laulima*. The posted weekly lesson plans are subject to change as significant news and recent developments in the Pacific will be included whenever possible, which sometimes entails adjusting or schedule. Should there be any changes in scheduling you will be notified via a posting in *Laulima Announcements*.
2. As an online course, all of your required reading materials will be posted in *Laulima Resources* and videos will be streaming (one requires a fee of \$4.99 to view). Should you prefer to have your readings as a hard copy which allows you the option of highlighting and make notes in the margins, you might find it beneficial to make a printout of certain assigned readings. After you read an article you'll have a good sense as to whether or not it might be advantageous for you to have it printed. Your quizzes will be open book and open resources which are somewhat easier to utilize in printed form.
3. Community is a critical aspect of island life and we will carry this over into the classroom. This is a bit more challenging online than in a face-to-face class, but it is entirely feasible using *Laulima Forums*. In order to facilitate online discussions, deadlines do apply. You can't carry out timely discussions when there is a significant lag in posting times. You will be assigned to a *wa'a* or canoe by the third or fourth week of class and this will be your study group. As in any successful community or canoe, all members must contribute.

Course Tasks and Grading

GRADING

Concept assessment assignments:	5 x 20 points each = 100 points
Reposting and commenting among your group	5 x 20 points each = 100 points
Online weekly discussions and comments	160 points
Quizzes:	2 x 40 points each = 80 points
Map quiz:	15 points
Poster project:	45 points
Total possible points:	500

Concept Assessment Assignments: Throughout the semester there will be 5 concept assessment assignments (Prehistory & Migration, Blackbirding, Mining, the Nuclear Pacific, and Globalization). These are specific assignments with questions either based on a selection of online readings, or videos and PowerPoint presentations. These are worth up to 20 points each, totaling up to 100 points toward your course grade. You'll download the form in Resources, then complete it in Microsoft Word and upload it in Dropbox. After they are graded, you are to post them in your *wa'a* discussion group for your canoe (study group) to read and comment on. This step (reposting them and sharing/discussing with your group) is worth up to 20 points per assessment,

making the total scores of the concept assessments 200 points of your final grade. Decide among you wa'a in your discussions which are the best answers and responses.

Weekly Discussions: Every week you will be required to contribute to online discussions of readings and videos on our weekly topic. Post your own reflections on the assigned topic (reading or video), then comment your fellow classmates entries. The assignments and specific readings will be posted and specified week by week in *Laulima Lessons*. Each of these comments/discussion assignments will count for a specific number of points per reading or video. Every week there will be at least one of these brief assignments. Combined, these weekly assignments and discussions will count for up to 160 points of your final grade. Your entries and comments for each week are due by midnight on Sunday. I'll be doing the grading and making final comments every Monday for the previous week. There are no extensions on deadlines for class/group discussions, however you are encouraged to continue conversations if you desire to do so.

Quizzes: There will be three online quizzes, one of which is a map quiz where you will be identifying the primary Island groups. This is worth 15 points. The two other quizzes are worth up to 40 points each. Combined the quizzes count for up to 95 points towards your final grade.

Poster Project: You will also complete a poster project with a 5 minute voiceover explaining your poster, and provide a written 500 word summary or essay with a bibliography. The poster project will count for up to 45 points of your final grade (15 points for the poster itself, 15 points for your voiceover & narrative, and 15 points for your essay and bibliography). More specifics of the assignment will be posted along with some sample poster projects from previous semesters (see the file in *Resources*). This is a formal writing assignment and does require that you submit a proposed topic and a rough draft according to the due dates posted in your weekly lessons. Final poster grades will be penalized if you fail to submit either your proposed topic, preliminary bibliography and preliminary draft. All late assignments will be penalized 10% for each week that you are past the posted deadline.

Extra Credit: One of the extra credit options is Facebook. Facebook is a great way to stay on top of current events in the Pacific and to share news items. Join under your UH account (or you can use a preexisting personal account provided you used your real name here and not some obscure alias) and join the page "[PACS 108 Windward](#)". Comment on any post in a way that shows that you've actually read it-- you can't just post "sad" or "cool" to receive 2.5 extra credit points. Post a new link (it can't be on a topic or duplicate what is already on our page) to something pertinent to our class for 5 extra credit points. A maximum of 25 extra credit points will be granted for Facebook participation.

Other extra credit options will be announced throughout the semester.

Course Resources

Your course materials are posted in *Laulima Resources*. Remember it is your responsibility to check *Laulima* and your UH email to keep on top of the course requirements.

There are many excellent sites that you can browse to broaden your understanding of the Pacific. These may also be utilized for extra credit assignments.

Sheppard Software Learning Games:

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Oceania_Geography.htm Here is an easy, fun way to familiarize yourself with the geography of the Pacific. The interactive Oceania map will also serve as an excellent study tool for our map quiz.

The Pacific Islands Report: <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport> Daily news stories, extensive links to other sites and resources, as well as a searchable archive.

Radio Australia, Pacific Beat:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/programsaz> This program brings interviews with Pacific Island leaders, newsmakers and Pacific Islanders.

Pacific Collection: <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/pacific/> The Pacific Collection website at the University of Hawai'i library has a variety of resources that will be useful for this class, especially the "Links to Pacific-related websites" (in particular the news links), and the Digital Collections links.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/te_index.asp?i=24 The museum has an impressive Pacific collection, some of which is online.

Art Pacific: <http://www.art-pacific.com/artifacts/nuguinea/mapmelan.htm> This is a site that was created and is maintained by private collectors with a genuine interest in the cultures of Melanesia.

Easter Island Foundation: <http://islandheritage.org/wordpress/> The EIF (Easter Island Foundation) was initially started in order to open a library on the island that would be accessible to Islanders. Since that time, the EIF has expanded their scope to research in the greater Pacific.

Course Schedule This course is divided into 6 units

Detailed weekly topics and assignments will be posted and updated in Lulima. Please check Lulima on a regular basis,

Unit I: Boarding the Waka – Navigating and Mapping Oceania

In this unit we discuss how the Pacific was named, mapped, and constructed by the West. We explore the ways in which modern studies have characterized the region. Our discussions will engage both pre-contact and contemporary cultural worldviews and practices, emphasizing the continuity of culture.

Unit II: Routes & Roots – Oceanic Origins and Traditions

This unit includes the various migration theories and discusses the archaeological evidence which points to the origins and initial migrations of Pacific islanders. Scientifically, we can explain the origins of islands in terms of volcanism, plate tectonics, reef building, and other physical forces. Similarly, we can trace the estimated migrations and arrivals of Pacific Islanders using archaeological and linguistic evidence, and recently, DNA. While these approaches to knowledge are valid and important, they tell us little about how cultures understand themselves, and cultural self-definition are rooted in the most primal of stories: those concerning the birth of the islands and the origins of their peoples. Origin legends are included whenever possible.

Unit III: Waves of Power – Christianity, Colonialism & Development

Here we explore the early contact period, usually up through the end of the 19th century. The all too frequent violence of contact and colonialism are discussed. We explore the cultural, political, and discursive domination of colonialism in the Pacific and discuss how colonialism has impacted issues of class, race, and gender in the Pacific and examines the impetus for and history of decolonization in the Pacific. While it is not feasible to adequately cover every island nation, we will include discussions of the Marquesas, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands (including the Polynesian outliers of Rennell and Bellona), New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Rapa Nui and Hawai'i.

PART IV: Countercurrents—Contemporary Pacific Cultures

This section brings us to the present and future and describes the fluidity of Oceanic cultural identities. We explore the internal and external forces calling for development in Oceania including migration and globalization and considers the questions: What are the positive and negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts of development in the Pacific? What does "globalization" mean in the Pacific region?

PART V: Niu Waves – Oceanic Art & Literature

This Unit looks at the relatively recent development of Pacific Arts and Literature. What are some of the ways in which Pacific Islanders express themselves today? We will consider how Pacific music and dance has been transformed by tourism, by the stage, and in the diaspora. We also consider how Pacific Islanders have been represented historically in film and art, and how this contrasts with the ways in which island artists represent themselves. This voyage into Pacific expression asks how tradition is being extended creatively in visual art form and literary content today.

PART VI: Pacific Worlds – Arriving on Distant Shores

We conclude the semester with a celebration of indigenous writings, arts, and education. Islanders today are steering their own canoe and once again at the helm.

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.