

## **HWST 273 Tattoo Traditions of Polynesia**

Monday/Wednesday, 10:00-11:15 a.m. Hale A'o room 106

Spring 2015 CRN: 63258 3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Tricia Allen  
**EMAIL:** AllenT@Hawaii.edu  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon. & Wed. 11:15-11:45 or by appointment  
**OFFICE:** Hale A'o courtyard

### **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 and ethical issues surrounding the art.

#### **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 importance of working with original documentation 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 1000 possible points.

Attendance is necessary and will be reflected in 25% of the final grade (250 points).

A total of 3 periodic quizzes will account for 25% of the final grade (250 total points).

A 6 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 25% of the final grade (250 points).

A final exam will account for 25% of the final grade (250 points).

The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Three options for earning extra credit will be announced in class.

Work submitted after the due date will be accepted, however, 10% of your grade for the assignment will be deducted for each week that you are late. In the case of a documented medical or family emergency, 5% will be deducted for each week an assignment is late.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

Required reading materials will be available for purchase in a reading packet at the bookstore. Students are expected to follow the course outlines and keep up with both assignments in their reading packets and those posted in Resources and Modules on Laulima. Weekly topics are also outlined in Laulima. Books will be placed on hold in the library for additional readings.

Reading assignments for weeks 1 and 2 and other supplemental materials will be online on Laulima. Some independent reading and library research will be required. Several films will be shown during class times.

## GENERAL COURSE NOTES

*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 topics and assignments for the week will be posted in *Laulima*. Should there be any changes in scheduling to for any reason, you will be notified via a posting in *Laulima Announcements*.

Participation is crucial to learning and attendance is crucial to participation. If you don't show up, you can't participate, which means we lose your insights and you'll miss out on ours. Please participate in discussions. Please be on time so as not to disrupt others. Repeated tardiness may lower your attendance grade. Also, kindly turn off all cell phones during class.

## Additional Information

### CULTURAL CONNECTIONS AND THE PACIFIC CONTEXT

- 1/12, 1/14: 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. SEE LAULIMA FOR READING ASSIGNMENTS
- 1/19: HOLIDAY
- 1/21: Polynesian concepts related to tattoo: kapu/noa, ao/po, etc.  
Accuracy in ethnohistoric sources.  
Primary vs. secondary sources.

### EARLY TATTOO PRACTICES OF POLYNESIA

- 1/26, 1/28: **Quiz #1**  
Introduction to Samoan tattoo
- 2/2, 2/4: Samoan tattoo continued  
Fijian and Tongan tattoo
- 2/9, 2/11: The Polynesian Outliers: Tikopia, Rennell, Bellona, Ontong Java  
Additional reading materials online at *Laulima*.  
discussion of research papers
- 2/16: HOLIDAY, but **take quiz #2 online BEFORE Thursday**
- 2/18: The Cook Islands  
Introduction to Tahiti and the Society Islands
- 2/23, 2/25: The Society Islands  
The Tuamotus and Mangareva  
Additional reading materials online at *Laulima*.
- 3/2, 3/4: **Summary of proposed research paper due**  
The Marquesas
- 3/9, 3/11: Rapa Nui (Easter Island)  
Aotearoa (New Zealand)
- 3/16, 3/18: Aotearoa  
Introduction to Hawai'i
- 3/23, 3/25: SPRING BREAK
- 3/30, 4/1: Hawai'i  
**Quiz #3**

## THE POLYNESIAN TATTOO TODAY

- 4/6, 4/8: Film: O Le Tatau: What One Must Do  
 Ownership of the art, intellectual property/cultural copyright  
 Commercialization and appropriation of Polynesian design  
 The revival in Samoa
- 4/13, 4/15: **Research papers due**  
 The revival in Aotearoa
- 4/20, 4/22: The Tahitian and Marquesan Revivals
- 4/27, 4/29: The Hawaiian revival
- 5/4, 5/6 Final discussion, review

Quizzes will be brief and consist of multiple choice, short answers, and identification of individual island styles. They are open-book, so you can bring in your course reader. You will do far better on the quizzes if you highlight and make brief notes in the margins as you read, so that you can quickly refer to it during your quizzes.

The final exam may consist of multiple choice, short answers, and identification of individual island styles, and/or several brief essay questions. You may take it on your own time in the testing center at the library and time BEFORE the scheduled final exam period.

\*\* 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](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.*