

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

CRN: 63296 3 Credits

Tues/Thurs, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. Hale A'o 102

INSTRUCTOR: Tricia Allen

OFFICE: Hale A'o courtyard

OFFICE HOURS: Tues/Thurs 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. or by appointment

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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

This course introduces students to the geography, societies, histories, cultures, and arts of Oceania, including Hawai'i. 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. *Laulima* will be used extensively during this course. You are responsible to checking this syllabus, *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 week-by-week are posted below and additional course materials will be posted in *Laulima Lessons*. Should there be any changes in scheduling to accommodate guest speakers or for any other reason, you will be notified via a posting in *Laulima Announcements*.
2. A course reader is available at the bookstore with many of the required readings. Additional required readings and web links will be posted in *Laulima Lessons*. Readings should be prepared for the day on which they are listed on the course schedule in *Laulima*. Read with a pen in hand and take notes. Take notes on films we watch as well. This will help you tremendously on your exams since some are open-book tests. Indicate points that seem important and cross-reference examples from other readings. Pose questions and make a note of them. Please come to class ready to ask questions and prepared for discussions. This is a discussion-oriented course and your questions and ideas do matter, so please be prepared to share them!
3. Community is a critical aspect of island life and we will carry this over into the classroom. You will be assigned to a *wa'a* or canoe on the first day of class and many of the projects and assignments throughout the semester will be assigned to the *wa'a*. As in any successful community or canoe, all members must contribute. More on the structure, expectations and grading of *wa'a* assignments will be provided in a handout and will be posted in *Laulima Resources*.

Course Tasks and Grading

Attendance and participation:	20 points
Map quiz:	8 points
Reading feedback /concept assessments (6 x 3 points each):	18 points
Wa'a assignments:	12 points
Poster:	12 points
Midterm:	15 points
Final exam:	15 points

*All assignments will be explained in detail on handouts and posted in *Laulima*.*

Attendance and Participation

Participation is crucial to learning and attendance is crucial to participation. If you don't show up, you can't participate, which means we miss your ideas and insights and you'll miss out on ours. Attending and participating in class discussions will also be to your advantage in your written assignments and exams.

Class participation also includes taking part in small group discussions and both a group (*wa'a*) project and presentation at the end of the semester. The group project is intended to give you an experience in working collaboratively with your peers in exploring issues and themes covered in the course. You will be required to meet in class as well as outside of the classroom to work on your projects.

On Deadlines: All deadlines and assignments will be posted in Laulima. Remember it's your responsibility to check the schedule on this syllabus and check both your UH email and Laulima to stay abreast of assignments. Late work will be accepted for individual assignments (no extensions on deadlines for wa'a assignments) however, a full letter grade will be deducted for each week that you are late. In the case of a documented medical or family emergency, for each week a paper is late, 1/2 letter grade will be deducted.

Exams: Both your midterm and final exam are in Laulima. They are short answer, multiple choice and image identification, perhaps with a brief essay. These are open-book (or note) exams and can be done on your computer at home or at the computer labs on campus. Test dates will be announced in Laulima.

Extra Credit: Several optional extra credit assignments will be given throughout the semester.

Course Resources

The bulk of the required reading for the course is in a photocopied course reader available at the bookstore. Additional required readings will be posted weekly in Laulima. Remember it is your responsibility to check Laulima Modules and Assignments to keep on top of the course requirements. Please check a few days prior to each class so that you have time to complete the readings before our class meetings.

Several books and photocopies of articles will also be placed on reserve in the Library, some of which do contain sections of our posted required readings. If you have limited access to the internet or Laulima, or are visually oriented, it's highly recommended that you utilize the library copies of various readings.

In addition to articles and selections from books, there are a number of websites that contain required readings. Links to specific required readings will be posted in Laulima Modules.

There are many other 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 & statistical source links), and the Digital Collections links.

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) is a great resource not only on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) but also on greater Pacific.

Course Schedule This course is divided into 6 units

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes in topics and assignments will be posted and updated in Lualima. Please check Lualima on a regular basis.

Unit I: Boarding the Waka – Navigating and Mapping Oceania

Discusses how the Pacific was named, mapped, and constructed by the West. Explores the ways in which modern studies have characterized the region. The discussion here will engage both pre-contact and contemporary cultural worldviews and practices, emphasizing the continuity of culture.

- Week 1: Introduction: Course structure, Wa'a and group assignment
Reading: **Teaiwa, The Classroom as a Metaphorical Canoe**, course reader
Video assignment: The Navigators, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxgUjyqN7FU>
In-class mapping game
- Week 2: Creation and origin legends, approaches to origins
Reading, **Matsuoka, Civilization Without a Center**, course reader
Video assignment, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6q8E1laQjY>
and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDzz_eDq3LE
Reading assignment: **Hau'ofa, E. Our Sea of Islands**, course reader
- Week 3 Mapping and naming the Pacific
Website: http://pacific-encounters.fr/cartographie_01_eng.php
Reading assignment: **d'Urville, Islands of the Great Ocean**, in both the course reader & Lualima
Geologic classifications and natural boundaries
Concept assessment assignment due, see Lualima Assignments

Unit II: Routes & Roots – Oceanic Origins and Traditions

Explores 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. 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.

- Week 4 Archaeological evidence of origins
Reading: **Ridgell, Migration**, course reader
Settlement patterns, cultural continuity and divergence
Reading assignment: **Finney, The Pacific Basin: An Introduction**, course reader
Video Assignment: Made in Taiwan, **concept assessment assignment due**
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/made-in-taiwan-2006>
- Week 5: Map Quiz
Indigenous views and experience of voyaging
Online reading assignment: **Andrade:**
<http://www.pacificworlds.com/homepage/education/essays/essay1.cfm>
and <http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/>
Discuss oral histories and pre-European histories

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

Explores the early contact period, usually up through the end of the 19th century. Describes the violence of colonialism. Explores the cultural, political, and discursive domination of colonialism in the Pacific. Discusses 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 Guam, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands (including the Polynesian outliers of Rennell and Bellona), New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Rapa Nui and Hawai'i.

Week 6: The arrival of the newcomers—explorers, colonial powers, missionaries, traders, blackbirders
Reading assignment: **Ridgell, Foreigners in the Pacific**, course reader AND
Campbell, The Age of European Discovery, course reader
Online reading assignment: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackbirding>

Reading Feedback form due

Begin discussion of case studies: Hawai'i, Rapa Nui, the Marquesas

Week 7: The first 100 years of contact and colonialism
Reading assignment: **Campbell, Polynesia: Trade and Social Change**, course reader
Case studies: Hawai'i, Rapa Nui, the Marquesas
Online reading assignment in Laulima

MIDTERM EXAM : The exam is online in Laulima and will cover the early history of the Pacific, including the geography, settlement, and early contact history.

Week 8: The Nuclear Pacific
Online reading assignment, link in Laulima
Video assignment: **concept assessment assignment due** on the video shown in class
Case studies: Guam, the Marshall Islands
Online reading assignment, link in Laulima

Week 9: Case studies: The Solomon Islands (Rennell and Bellona), New Caledonia
Online reading assignment, link in Laulima
Wa'a projects and presentations

Unit 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?

Week 10: Assistance programs and intervention
Online reading assignment: Excerpts from **Hau'ofa, Tales of the Tikongs**
Video: Kilim Taem
Online reading assignment, link in Laulima

Week 11; Globalization
Reading assignment: **Mallon, Tourist Art and its Markets**, course reader, **Reading Feedback Form due**
The diaspora, Pacific Islanders overseas
Online reading assignment, link in Laulima

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 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.

Week 11; Overview of the arts and material culture of pre and early contact eras
Reading assignment: **Waite, Art**, Course Reader
Video Assignment: Contemporary arts video link in Laulima

Week 12: Recent movements in Pacific art, Art & Politics
Online reading assignments, links in Laulima
concept assessment assignment due
Group Presentations, Poster Project

Week 13: Art and the Internet
Group Presentations, Poster Project

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.

Week 14: Identity and Representation

Reading assignment: **Herman, "Race," Identity and Representation**, Course Reader

Taking the Helm

Reading assignment: **Hau'ofa, The Ocean in Us**, Course Reader

Week 15: Concluding comments, Review for final exam

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.