

**IS 204: WI / Themes in Popular Culture: The Zombie Apocalypse & Other Doomsday Beliefs**  
**MW: 10:00—12:45pm (CRN #64083)**  
**Palanakila 227**

**INSTRUCTOR:**  
**OFFICE:**  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**TELEPHONE:**  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**Malia Lau Kong**  
**Palanakila 136**  
**MW: 8:55—9:55am**  
**Also by appointment**  
**236-9132**  
**maliakon@hawaii.edu**  
**Summer 2015**

**ARE YOU PREPARED?**



**WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT**

*Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.*

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

An interdisciplinary study of a specific event, person, idea, or process in popular culture which will bring together various methodologies and conceptual tools to create a complex analysis. Topics covered will include: the concept of popular culture, how elements of popular culture are created and circulated, how elements of popular culture connect to historical, political, social, symbolic and intellectual history, how different groups in society are related to the elements of popular culture, and how popular culture plays a role in the lives of individuals. (3 hours lecture)

**WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE HALLMARKS**

- Writing promotes learning of course content.
- Writing is considered to be a process in which multiple drafts are encouraged.
- Writing contributes significantly to each student's course grade.

- Students do a substantial amount of writing, a minimum of 4,000 words. Depending on the types of writing appropriate to the discipline, students may write critical essays or reviews, journal entries, lab reports, research reports or reaction papers.

\*To allow for meaningful teacher-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- Identify the connection between the theme in popular culture with larger political, social, and intellectual patterns in society.
- Analyze the connection between the theme in popular culture and other themes, either contemporary or historical.
- Participate effectively in group discussions, given evidence of thoughtfulness and an engagement with other people's positions.
- Connect local elements of popular culture to global economic and political systems.
- Explain and justify an evaluation of the role of popular culture in the student's life.

## COURSE TASKS

In order to meet the course SLOs and fulfill the Writing Intensive Hallmarks, this course will revolve around the following course:

- ✓ Write 2 Analysis Papers (MINIMUM 750 words; MAX 1250 words) on the following topics:
  - **World War Z Social Commentary Paper (Analysis Paper #1):** Analyze the way in which the book *World War Z* is a social commentary on present-day society by relating it to at least one modern day issues/events/ideas.
  - **Surviving the Post-Apocalypse Paper (Analysis Paper #2):** Using both Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Freud's *Civilization & Its Discontents*, analyze the way in which people survive the apocalypse in either *One Second After* or *The Walking Dead* TV series (\*must be familiar with ALL 5 seasons of TWD) or *The 100* TV series (\*must be familiar with ALL 2 seasons of *The 100*).
  - Guidelines for Analysis Papers:
    - Must be typed, double-spaced, include footnote citations, have a topic sentence for each paragraph, have an introduction, body, & conclusion, make use of transitions between sentences, include a word count and be grammatically and mechanically correct. *First-person statements should be used as sparingly as possible, if at all.*
    - Final drafts are due on SPECIFIC days at the BEGINNING of class according to the class schedule. A paper, regardless of reason, is considered late if not turned in at the beginning of class on these specific days. If you are emailing me your paper, make sure that you email it to me as a Word Document by the beginning of class. Please note that once you turn in a final draft, you will not be able to revise your paper.
    - First drafts of paper are due on SPECIFIC days according to the class schedule in order to give me enough time to review it for you. After this date, I will NOT accept any more first drafts. ***It is mandatory that you turn in a draft of Paper #1 (if you fail to turn in a draft of Paper #1, you will automatically fail the class). You will also need to attend a mandatory conference with me regarding your Paper #1 draft. Failure to attend this conference will result in automatic failure for the class.*** For Paper #2 you are advised to turn in a first draft for my review; however, this is optional.
    - Please remember that when turning in your paper drafts, I am not your spell checker or editor. Although I will point out grammatically incorrect sentences and spelling errors, I will not fix your paper for you. If you find that you need help with writing, please visit the **Writing Center** for further assistance.
  - Time management is a MUST in this class. Since the due dates are not a surprise, I expect you to turn in your paper on-time regardless of how fantastic your reason is.

- Each Analysis Paper is worth up to 50 points total. Late papers will be assessed a 5-point late penalty regardless of reason. Failure to turn in Paper #2 when due will result in failure for the class as grades are due ASAP.
- ✓ Write **6** Reaction Papers (MINIMUM 300 words; MAX 500 words) on designated readings according to the class schedule.
  - Guidelines for Reaction Papers:
    - Only **2** paragraphs. No more, no less. Each reaction paper should be **evenly divided** between analysis and personal reaction.
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph: write an **analysis** of the assigned reading. Be sure to include the main ideas/arguments of author and supporting evidence used by the author to evidence these main ideas/arguments. No first person statements in this paragraph.
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph: write your **personal reaction** to the assigned reading (i.e., what did you like, dislike, find enlightening, irritating, confusing, impressive, surprising, **AND** why). This is the place to use first person statements.
    - Must be typed, double-spaced, have a topic sentence for each paragraph, make use of transitions between sentences, include the word count, and be grammatically & mechanically correct.
  - Reaction Papers are worth up to 10 points total and are due on specific days according to class schedule. Note that Reaction Paper #4 is worth double points since it is on two readings. If you are absent on the day in which a Reaction Paper is due, you must email me your paper before the start of class so that your paper is not considered late. Late papers are penalized 2 points regardless of reason.
- ✓ Produce **1** Doomsday Project and present your findings to the class on the last day of instruction. This project is worth up to 50 points total (45 points for the project + 5 points for presentation) and is due on the final day of instruction. The Doomsday Project must convey the following information in visual & written format:
  - How will the world end?
  - Why will it end in this manner?
  - What are the odds of the world ending in this manner?
  - How will you survive? Create a plan that takes into account the following crucial elements:
    - Water
    - Food
    - Shelter
    - Security
    - Your X-Factors (i.e., Can you fish? Hunt? Do you have special training in something? Etc.)
    - Other People
  - One year after the apocalypse, describe what the last year was like by answering the following questions & scenarios:
    - Question #1: What is government like in your group? Is it a democracy, dictatorship, oligarchy, etc.? Why?
    - Question #2: What are the rules/laws in your group? Why these rules/laws?
    - Question #3: Having witnessed the apocalypse and survived, what are your religious beliefs like now? Why?
    - Scenario #1: Someone in your group breaks the law. What is this person's punishment? Why?
    - Scenario #2: You come upon a sole survivor begging for your help. Do you help this survivor? Why or why not?
    - Scenario #3: 75% of those in your group have come down with severe cases of cholera. You only have enough medicine to treat 25% of them. Who do you decide to treat & why?

- Scenario #4: 25% of those in your group have been kidnapped by a rival group. Luckily, you are able to free them. How do you treat the rival group now that you have the upper hand?
  - Other than being neatly put together, and grammatically & mechanically correct, the format for this assignment is FLEXIBLE. In other words, this is NOT a formal paper, but a plan of action & description of life in the after. Be creative!
- ✓ In-Class Think/Write Logs: Complete daily class thinking & writing logs on responses to specific questions and hypothetical scenarios. These logs will help clarify your thoughts, and will serve as a starting point for your Analysis Papers and Doomsday Project. Each log will be turned in at the end of class. These logs are worth a total of 30 points.
- ✓ Complete **6** Understanding the Reading Exercises: These Exercises will be completed in our class Laulima site and found in the “Exercises” icon. They will be open for a 24 hour period following the class in which we talk about the specified readings, and will be due by 1:00pm the next day (see class schedule for reference). These exercises will include multiple choice questions, short answer questions, &/or hypothetical scenarios where you will need to apply the readings to a certain situation. Each exercise is worth up to 5 points. A late penalty of 1-point will be assessed if completed after the due date regardless of reason.
- ✓ Complete **3** Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheets & present to class on designated days according to the class schedule. For this assignment, you will need to find how popular culture utilizes the apocalypse/post-apocalypse in the specified example genre designed below. After you find a song, video game, TV show, comic book, movie, &/or book that is about the apocalypse/post-apocalypse or can be *interpreted* as being about it, fill out the Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet (handed out in class). Each Worksheet and presentation will be worth up to 10 points total. A late penalty of 2 points will be assessed if completed after the due date regardless of reason.
  - The Popular Culture Example Genre for each assignment is specified below:
    - Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet #1: Music or Video Game
    - Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet #2: TV Show or Comic Book
    - Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet #3: Movie or Book
- ✓ Complete the Household Inventory List & 2 Reaction Paragraphs on *The Walking Dead* Quizzes found in our Laulima site: The Household Inventory List is attached to this syllabus and will need to be filled out. You will also need to take the *What Kind of Survivor Are You?* Quiz found on the homepage of our class Laulima site and write a 3—5 sentence reaction to your results. Furthermore, you will also need to take the *What Kind of Character on the Walking Dead Are You?* Quiz found on the homepage of our class Laulima site and write a 3—5 sentence reaction to your results. Each of these assignments are worth 4 points each and due on the designated day according to the class schedule. A late-penalty of 1 point will be assessed if turned in after the due date.
- ✓ Complete a variety of in-class activities (28 points total)
  - You will be frequently required to participate in group assignments, discussions, and role-playing scenario exercises. Some assignments will be worth more points than others depending on the assignment.
  - **Since all of these activities require being present for class, you will NOT be able to make-up these activities, regardless of reason, if class is missed. However,** your first 3 absences will automatically be excused (meaning you **are able to make-up the points** for these days). On the other hand, any absences beyond these first 3 absences **will NOT be excused, regardless of reason (unless, of course, the zombies are walking the earth, which though, in this case, grades would be the least of your worries)**. After your 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence, your final grade will automatically drop one letter grade.
  - Participate in class by being physically, as well as mentally, present and respectful of others. This includes turning off your cell phone, not talking story with friends, not listening to music, and coming to class on time. This also includes not monopolizing class discussion with your own point-of-view and not being respectful of what your classmates have to say. The class is a

designated **Safe Zone**. Negative comments will **NOT** be tolerated. Please prepare yourself to face the consequences if you engage in any disrespectful behavior. *Please note that plagiarism also falls in the category of disrespectful behavior and will result in automatic failure for assignment &/or class.*

### ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

2 Analysis Papers	x	50 points each	= 100 points (28% of final grade)
6 Reaction Papers (RP #4 double points)	x	10 points each	= 70 points (20% of final grade)
Doomsday Project + Presentation			= 50 points (14% of final grade)
In-Class Think/Write Logs			= 30 points (9% of final grade)
6 Understanding the Reading Exercises	x	5 points each	= 30 points (9% of final grade)
3 Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheets + Presentations	x	10 points each	= 30 points (9% of final grade)
In-Class Activities (includes Respect & Participation)			= 28 points (8% of final grade)
Household Inventory List & 2 Reaction Paragraphs	x	4 points each	= 12 points (3% of final grade)
			= 350 points total

***\*Everyone starts the class with an "A" (350 points)!***

***What you do with your "A" is now up to you!***

To keep your	You can't lose more than	Which means
<b>A</b>	35 points	A = 315 points & above
<b>B</b>	70 points	B = 280 points & above
<b>C</b>	105 points	C = 245 points & above
<b>D</b>	140 points	D = 210 points & above

\*(Hopefully, this will not happen, but if it turns out that more than 140 points is lost, an "F" for the class will result.)

\*The "N" grade is only given in circumstances in which the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities, and has made measurable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning outcomes and is not prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal, or family emergencies. The "N" grade is **NOT** given in circumstances in which you have NOT made consistent progress in the class &/or attended class regularly.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

1. [Civilization & Its Discontents by Sigmund Freud](#)
2. [Theories of International Politics & Zombies by Daniel W. Drezner](#)
3. [One Second After by William R. Forstchen](#)
4. [World War Z by Max Brooks](#) (Abbreviated as WWZ in class schedule)
5. Other Supplemental Readings found in Lualima (click on the "Supplemental Readings" folder in the Resources icon) or handed out in class.

## METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

- ❖ This course makes use of multiple learner-centered activities to help you learn the material. In other words, this class will not rely solely on lecture. If you find that this teaching style does not work for you, please drop the class.
- ❖ This course will utilize peer-feedback methods for your papers. You will typically be asked to share your writings in small (3—4 person) groups. You will also be expected to give constructive feedback to your group members.

## RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THIS CLASS

1. This class is not only **writing-intensive** but also **reading-intensive AND thinking-intensive**. Since we will move at an extremely fast pace, it is crucial for you to keep up with the readings and paper assignments.
2. You will be expected to write thoughtful & analytical papers on given topics AND keep up with all assigned readings. Seriously consider dropping the class if you find that the topic of Doomsday Beliefs does not interest you since lack of interest in a subject corresponds to a negative grade.
3. Faithfully attend class since failure to attend class on a regular basis corresponds to a negative grade.
4. Always take notes. This includes anything that is written on the board, viewed on the overhead projector, discussed with one another, gleaned from videos, etc. These notes can help you write your papers!
5. Bring required readings to class according to the class schedule. We will typically refer back to these readings in class. Also, these readings will help you complete in-class assignments. Failure to buy the required texts always corresponds to a negative grade.
6. Ask questions if you don't understand and definitely let me know if you are having any problems in the class.

**\*This class is designed to be accessible to all students. Thus, please take note of the following statement:**

### 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

## CLASS SCHEDULE\*

*\*Note: Class schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON THIS DAY IN-CLASS (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)	REQUIRED READINGS FOR THIS DAY	CORRESPONDING CLASSROOM TOPICS & EVENTS ON THIS DAY
<b>Week 1:</b> M 6/1			1. Introduction to the Class 2. The Apocalypse in Popular Culture I
W 6/3	<b>1. Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet #1 (Music or Video Game) DUE</b>	<i>No required readings for this day but should start reading World War Z</i>	1. The Apocalypse in Popular Culture II 2. <i>Music or Video Game Presentations</i>
<b>Week 2:</b> M 6/8	<b>1. Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet #2 (TV</b>	<i>No required readings for this day but should start</i>	1. The Apocalypse in Popular Culture III

	Show or Comic Book) DUE	reading World War Z	2. TV Show or Comic Book Presentations
W 6/10	1. Apocalypse in Pop Culture Worksheet #3 (Movie or Book) DUE	No required readings for this day but should be finishing reading World War Z <b>and</b> starting to read One Second After <b>or</b> catching up on chosen TV series for the Surviving the Post-Apocalypse Paper	1. The Apocalypse in Popular Culture IV 2. Movie or Book Presentations
Week 3: M 6/15	1. Reaction Paper #1: The Undead Martyr DUE  2. Understanding the Reading Exercise #1: The Undead Martyr DUE IN LAULIMA by 1:00pm next day	1. Handout: The Undead Martyr: Sex, Death, & Revolution in George Romero's Zombie Films	1. Historical, Philosophical, Political, Psychological, & Religious Context of the Apocalypse I 2. The Zombie Apocalypse as Social Commentary I
W 6/17	1. Reaction Paper #2: When There's No More Room in Hell DUE  2. Understanding the Reading Exercise #2: When There's No More Room in Hell DUE IN LAULIMA by 1:00pm next day	1. Handout: When There's No More Room in Hell, The Dead Will Shop the Earth: Romero and Aristotle on Zombies, Happiness, and Consumption	1. Historical, Philosophical, Political, Psychological, & Religious Context of the Apocalypse II 2. The Zombie Apocalypse as Social Commentary II
Week 4: M 6/22	1. Reaction Paper #3: Theories of International Politics and Zombies DUE  2. Understanding the Reading Exercise #3: Theories of International Politics DUE IN LAULIMA by 1:00pm next day	1. Text: <i>Theories of International Politics and Zombies</i>	1. Writer's Workshop: The Zombie Apocalypse as Social Commentary III
W 6/24	1. World War Z Social Commentary Paper Mandatory Draft DUE	1. Text: <i>World War Z</i>	1. The Zombie Apocalypse as Social Commentary IV
Week 5: M 6/29			<b>NO CLASS: PAPER CONFERENCE DAY—BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR AN INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE</b>
W 7/1	1. Reaction Paper #4 (Combined Reaction Paper on TWO Sources / Worth Double Points): Hobbes' <i>Leviathan</i> & Freud's <i>Civilization &amp; Its Discontents</i> DUE  2. Understanding the Reading Exercise #4: Hobbes' <i>Leviathan</i> & Freud's <i>Civilization &amp; Its</i>	1. Handout: Hobbes' <i>Leviathan</i> 2. Text: Freud's <i>Civilization &amp; Its Discontents</i>	1. Life in the Post-Apocalypse I—The Breakdown of Civilization

	<b>Discontents DUE IN LAULIMA by 1:00pm next day</b>		
<b>Week 6: M 7/6</b>	<b>1. Reaction Paper #5: When They Aren't Eating Us DUE</b>  <b>2. Understanding the Reading Exercise #5: When They Aren't Eating Us DUE IN LAULIMA by 1:00pm next day</b>	1. Handout: When They Aren't Eating Us, They Bring Us Together: Zombies and the American Social Contract	1. Life in the Post-Apocalypse II—Tribalism & Dictatorship
W 7/8	<b>1. World War Z Social Commentary Paper Final Draft DUE</b>		1. Life in the Post-Apocalypse III—Vengeance as Rule of Law
<b>Week 7: M 7/13</b>	<b>1. Reaction Paper #6: One Second After DUE</b>  <b>2. Understanding the Reading Exercise #6: One Second After DUE IN LAULIMA by 1:00pm next day</b>	1. Text: <i>One Second After</i>	1. Writer's Workshop: Lessons for Surviving the Apocalypse & Post-Apocalypse
W 7/15	<b>1. Household Inventory List DUE</b> <b>2. What Kind of Survivor Are You? Quiz Reaction Paragraph DUE</b> <b>3. What Kind of Character on The Walking Dead Are You? Quiz Reaction Paragraph DUE</b> <b>4. Surviving the Post-Apocalypse Paper Optional Draft DUE</b>		1. In-Class Group Scenario, Part I: Surviving the Apocalypse 2. In-Class Group Scenario, Part II: Back to The State of Nature
<b>Week 8: M 7/20</b>	<b>1. Extra Credit Social Commentary Paper DUE (Pick a TV Show, Movie, Book, etc. not previously done and write a 1-page analysis paper on how it is a commentary on a present-day societal issue; worth up to 15 points total).</b>		1. Writer's Workshop: The Doomsday Project
W 7/22	<b>1. Doomsday Project DUE</b> <b>2. Surviving the Post-Apocalypse Paper Final Draft DUE</b>		1. <i>Doomsday Project Presentations</i>



## REVISED SCHEDULE

<b>Week 6:</b> M 7/6	<b>1. Reaction Paper #4 DUE</b>	1. Handout: When They Aren't Eating Us, They Bring Us Together: Zombies and the American Social Contract	1. Life in the Post-Apocalypse II—Tribalism & Dictatorship
W 7/8	<b>1. Reaction Paper #5: When They Aren't Eating Us DUE</b>		1. Life in the Post-Apocalypse III—Vengeance as Rule of Law
<b>Week 7:</b> M 7/13	<b>1. <i>World War Z</i> Social Commentary Paper Final Draft DUE</b>	1. Text: <i>One Second After</i>	1. Writer's Workshop: Lessons for Surviving the Apocalypse & Post-Apocalypse
W 7/15	<b>1. Reaction Paper #6: <i>One Second After</i> DUE</b> <b>2. Household Inventory List DUE</b> <b>3. <i>What Kind of Survivor Are You?</i> Quiz Reaction Paragraph DUE</b> <b>4. <i>What Kind of Character on The Walking Dead Are You?</i> Quiz Reaction Paragraph DUE</b>		1. In-Class Group Scenario, Part I: Surviving the Apocalypse 2. In-Class Group Scenario, Part II: Back to The State of Nature
S 7/18	<b>1. Surviving the Post-Apocalypse Paper Optional Draft DUE by EMAIL</b>		
<b>Week 8:</b> M 7/20	<b>1. Extra Credit Social Commentary Paper DUE (Pick a TV Show, Movie, Book, etc. not previously done and write a 1-page analysis paper on how it is a commentary on a present-day societal issue; worth up to 15 points total).</b>		1. Writer's Workshop: The Doomsday Project
W 7/22	<b>1. Doomsday Project DUE</b>		1. <i>Doomsday Project Presentations</i>
M 7/27	<b>2. Surviving the Post-Apocalypse Paper Final Draft DUE by EMAIL</b>		