

**Tattoo Traditions of Polynesia**  
Spring 2016 HWST 273 (CRN:61214) 3 credits  
Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:15 Hale A'o 107

**INSTRUCTOR:** Tricia Allen  
**OFFICE:** Hale A'o 105  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tues/Thurs 11:00-11:30 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.*

**COURSE 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 research 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 based on a total of 300 possible points.

Attendance and participation 1 point for attending, 1 point for participation	60 points
Research paper Annotated bibliography 15 points, rough draft 25 points, final draft 35 points	75 points
Three quizzes 35 points each	105 points
Group project	10 points
Final exam	50 points

Detailed rubrics on all assignments will be provided in class on handouts.

Several 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, late assignments will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

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

## LEARNING RESOURCES

The majority of your required reading materials are available for purchase in a course reader at the bookstore. Additional required readings and videos are posted in Lualima Modules. Books and videos will be placed on hold in the library for additional reading. Some independent reading and library/archival research will be required.

Students are expected to check their UH email account for updates and announcements on a regular basis. You are also required to check your weekly assignments in Lulima Modules regularly. Any changes to our schedule will be announced via UH gmail and posted in Lulima.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Preparedness.** All class assignments are to be done *before* class to receive full credit. You're advised to take notes while reading and in class. Good notes will aid 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. Texting is not allowed. Please be on time to avoid disrupting 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 Writing 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 and may be subject to College disciplinary procedures.

**Quizzes.** All quizzes are in Lulima 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 take as long as you would like.

**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 Lulima 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.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes in topics and assignments will be posted and updated in Lulima. Please check both Lulima and your UH email on a regular basis. Lulima can be easily updated and allows for a more in-depth summary of assignments. **Please rely on Lulima for your weekly assignments.**

### CULTURAL CONNECTIONS AND THE PACIFIC CONTEXT

#### **Week 1: 1/12, 1/14 The geography, physical environment of the Pacific.**

The prehistory and peopling of the Pacific, the development of distinct cultural traits within each of the primary Polynesian groups.

Reading assignments for the first week are posted in Lulima.

**Week 2: 1/9, 1/21 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 IN POLYNESIA****Week 3: 1/22, 1/28 Introduction to Samoan tattoo**

Discussion of research papers

**Week 4: 2/2, 2/4 Samoan tattoo continued, Fijian and Tongan tattoo**

Additional required reading posted in Laulima.

**Week 5: 2/9, 2/11 The Polynesian Outliers: Tikopia, Rennell, Bellona, Ontong Java**

Additional required reading posted in Laulima.

**Quiz #2****Week 6: 2/16, 2/18 The Cook Islands**

Introduction to Tahiti and the Society Islands

**Summary of proposed research paper due!**

**Week 7: 2/23, 2/25 The Society Islands, the Tuamotus and Mangareva**

Additional reading materials online at Laulima.

**Week 8: 3/1, 3/3 The Marquesas****Week 9: 3/8, 3/10 Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Aotearoa (New Zealand)****Week 10: 3/15, 3/17 Hawai'i**

Annotated bibliography for your research papers due!

**Quiz #3**

3/22, 3/24 **SPRING RECESS**

**THE POLYNESIAN TATTOO TODAY****Week 11: 3/29, 3/31 Film: O Le Tatau: What One Must Do**

The revival in Samoa

**Rough draft of your research papers due!**

**Week 12: 4/5, 4/7 The revival in Tonga , Fiji**

The revival in Aotearoa

**Week 13: 4/12, 4/14 The Tahitian and Marquesan Revivals****Week 14: 4/19, 4/21 The Hawaiian Revival**

**Final draft of your research papers due!**

**Week 15: 4/26, 4/28 Commercialization**

The appropriation of Polynesian design and other ethical issues.

**Week 16: 5/3 Review for final exam**

**FINAL EXAM** Your final exam is in Laulima and must be completed by 3pm Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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 the course. 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.