

PACS 108 Pacific Worlds: An Introduction to Pacific Islands Studies

3 Credits

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2024 ~ 2nd 8-Week Term



The Center for Pacific Islands Studies
School of Pacific & Asian Studies
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa



Aloha, halo olketa, nisa bula vinaka/namaste, talofa lava, malo e lelei, kia orana, taloha ni, kona mauri, hafa adai, alii, iokwe yuk, ran allim and fakaalofa lahi atu. Pacific Island greetings and welcome to Pacific Worlds: An introduction to Pacific Islands Studies!

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the geography, peoples, societies, histories, cultures, contemporary issues, literature, and arts of the Pacific Islands region, also known as Oceania, and including Hawai‘i. It combines lectures and discussions that emphasize Pacific Islander perspectives and experiences. You will learn of concepts that draw upon a wealth of knowledge and experiences across the region, allowing you to become familiar with both the connections and differences among the islands of Oceania. The course will broaden your knowledge of the region and provide you with insights into the Pacific Islander communities living in multicultural Hawai‘i. The course is divided into three broad Units: (I) Pacific Islands, Islanders, Cultures & Histories; (II) Contemporary issues, challenges, and opportunities; and, (III) Presentations and evaluations.

NOTE: This course is designated as an official Hawai‘i Asian Pacific Issues Class, meeting the HAP Issues Hallmarks as set forth by the UH System Offices. See HAP Issues Table provided.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are as follows:

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.

COURSE CONTENT

This course introduces various concepts:

Islands, Islanders & Cultures
 ~Voyaging & Mapping Oceania~
 ~Routes & Roots: Oceanic Origin Stories~
 ~Peopling of the Pacific~
 ~Navigating the Pacific~
 ~Waves of Power: Colonialism & Religion~
 ~Decolonization & Neocolonialism~
Niu Waves: Contemporary Issues
 ~Globalization & Oceania~
 ~Environment In Oceania~
 ~Islanders on the Move: Diaspora~
 ~Pacific Islanders in the U.S.~
 ~Climate Change~
 ~Oceanic Arts and Literature~
 ~Urbanization~
 ~Future Challenges & Opportunities~

Skills & Competencies

1. Identify features of the basic geography and demography of the Pacific Islands;
2. Define "diaspora" and discuss aspects of the populations of the Hawai'i diaspora;
3. Describe basic ecological, political, cultural, and social 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.

The format of the course will be a mixture of lectures, seminar-style discussions during our class time, plus online written discussions and assignments as a hybrid course. Class meetings will emphasize primary course content, frameworks, key issues and ideas. The class discussions should be considered "Talanoa Sessions", that offer opportunities for grounded and focused discussions in which we explore the texts and relevant issues in depth. Talanoa is an important cultural practice and indigenous scholarly method in many contemporary and historical Pacific Islands communities. In our course context, the Talanoa Sessions emphasize the importance of speaking together, openly with heart, in a manner that allows complicated conversations and discussions to be addressed with sensitivity and respect, and with opportunity for all class community members to share their voices. These Talanoa Sessions will also serve as a focal point of project work, course assignments, and attention to individual needs as learners and community members.

COURSE TASKS

Evaluation of the student's achievement of course objectives will be based upon attendance and class participation, completion of homework assignments, projects, written examinations, and aloha.

LEARNING ASSESSMENTS (3 Quizzes): 25 to 60 points each; 110 points total

Online assessments will be given throughout the semester, covering the lecture topics, in-class and online discussions, reading assignments, movies, and internet exercises/resources. The map quiz will cover the names of the Pacific Island countries and territories, the capitals, and cultural areas and their political status. This Map quiz aims to help students meet the first Learning Outcome.

Exam dates: Map Quiz (Week 3); Exam 1 (Week 6); Exam 2 – (Week 9); Exam 3 – (Week 12).

DISCUSSION FORUMS (15 @ 20 points each; 300 points total):

Weekly written online (Laulima) discussions are found under the Forums tab on Laulima, and they are the main source of student interaction beyond our Zoom class hour. There will be questions that cover reading assignments and lectures, and they are meant to guide you into a Talk Story which navigates through the issues we are dealing with in class. We start with an introduction discussion telling us your own story, and move into Pacific Islander perspectives and issues from there. You should note that there is a due date for initial responses (100-250 words), followed by a due date for replies to two other student posts for that week. Our class is on Thursday, so the initial discussions are due Friday night @ 11: 55 p.m., and our replies are due by Tuesday night @ 11:55 p.m. so we have time to read them before class.

MAP & POLITICAL STATUS QUIZ (50 points)

The map quiz will cover the names of the Pacific Island countries and territories, the capitals, and cultural areas and their political status. This quiz aims to help students meet the first Learning Outcome.

TOK STORY PASIFIKA PRESENTATION: 200 points EDITED 04/01/2024

This assignment is designed to give you and an opportunity to conduct specialized research on a specific Pacific place of your choosing and to connect your findings to the issues and topics addressed over the course of the semester. These findings will be shared in class in the form of a final video presentation. The Tok Story Project and Presentation Assignment will be administered throughout the semester, with some Discussions asking you to do pre-research by subject. There will be a discussion where each of us works to choose separate island groups/nations. IE French Polynesia = Society Isles, Tuamotus Isles, Gambier Isles, Dubai Isles, & Marquesas Isles. Choose one of these colonized island groups, they are related politically but have vary in lifestyle and perspective. There is a rubric in the Assignment that details the slide topics you should include. You may work in a group but each student must do a complete report on different areas within the Pacific nation you both chose.

ASSIGNMENTS ~ PROJECT OPTIONS: (2@50 points each; 100 points total)

You have opportunities to earn points towards an A by attending, participating, and writing a reflection paper for numerous seminars and events throughout the semester sponsored by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies (or Anthropology, or Social Science, etc.), or volunteer for Service Learning, or read and reflect on a book written by a Pacific Islander, as long as you can tie it to our Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The accompanying reflection paper for these options is typically 300-500 words and done formally in a Google or Word doc that I can comment on. Please discuss and gain permission from the Instructor and view Guidelines on Laulima. Submit/upload all reflection papers through "Assignments" on Laulima in the appropriate Assignment option as listed under the Assignments tab on Laulima. You MUST complete AT LEAST two of these projects by the end of the semester. One will be due mid-semester, and the next one will be due at the end of the semester.

NOTE: If you do more than 2 Project Assignments, these will be considered as extra credit points towards an A. Thus, if you miss too many class meetings or fall behind on our discussions, then you may use these projects to make up the points so that everyone can get an A, and continue striving!

SURVEY & EVALUATION (40 points total):

Towards the end of the semester you will be instructed to take part in the online Course and Faculty Evaluation or eCAFE to record student development, instructor ratings and teaching assistant ratings as well. Provided that you complete the mid-semester survey and the online survey within the given

timeline and provide the Instructor with the survey completion evidence (take a photo or screen shot and upload in “Assignments” on Laulima), you have the opportunity to earn two (20) points.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

METHOD OF GRADING:

The assignment of points will be according to the following protocol:

Course Assessment/Points Rubric	Points
TOK PASIFIKA PRESENTATION	100
Online Discussion Forums (16 @ 20 points each)	320
Learning Assessments (1 Map Quiz, Midterm, Final Discussion)	160
Ethnographic Assignment Options (2 @ 50 points each)	100
Surveys & eCafe Course Evaluations (40 points)	<u>20</u>
Total Points:	700

Each letter grade with its respective level of achievement is as follows:

Letter Grade	Definition
A	90% - 100% of cumulative points possible
B	80% - 89% of cumulative points possible
C	70% - 79% of cumulative points possible
D	60% - 69% of cumulative points possible
F	below 60% of cumulative points possible
I	Incomplete: This temporary grade is given at the instructor’s option when a student has failed to complete a small part of a course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control. All required work must be completed by the last day of instruction of the succeeding semester.

LEARNING RESOURCES

The readings for this course are available on Laulima (<https://laulima.hawaii.edu>) and online through the *Teaching Oceania* iBooks found here: <https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/42426>. Most of your readings for this course will be from this series. These books were published by CPIS for undergraduate Pacific Islands Studies students. The series uses digital technology to enhance texts with embed multimedia content, thought-provoking images, and interactive graphs. You are expected to read the readings and keep reflective reading notes throughout the semester. The readings are also important to help you participate effectively in class discussions, do well in exams and pass the course. It is therefore vital that you read the readings assigned for each week. Additional readings, handouts, films and Internet sources will be provided if and when required. Apart from the films shown in class, there are other films on the Pacific Islands that are available at the Wong Audiovisual Center at the Sinclair Library. You are encouraged to watch these films at your own time.

Kokua

Students with disability-related needs or concerns are invited to contact the Kokua Office in the Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services, Room 13, phone 956-7511.

Safe Learning Environment

We are committed to the University of Hawai‘i’s goal of ensuring a safe and civil learning and working environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected. In PACS 108 we will ensure that you feel free and safe to express yourself, share information and ideas, and respect each other’s opinion.

Schedule of Topics:

(3/04) Course & Student Introductions

M1 (3/05): Introduction to Oceania

M2 (3/06): Mapping Oceania

M3 (3/11): Origin Stories

M4 (3/13): Library Visit

M5 (3/25): Pacific People: Navigation

M6 (3/27): Pacific Islands Cultures

M7 (4/01): Gender Issues In Oceania

M8 (4/03): Colonialism ~ The Scramble for Oceania

M9 (4/08): Militarism

M10 (4/10): Decolonization

M11 (4/15): Diaspora: On the Move!

M12 (4/17): Election Day, No Class. Vote.
Environment/ Climate Change

M(4/22): Arts In Oceania

M14 (4/24): Our Sea of Islands

M15 (4/29): The Future of Oceania

(5/01) Final Course Discussion & All Coursework Due by Friday at the very latest!

See you on the sea!