“As human beings, we are vulnerable to confusing the unprecedented with the improbable. In our everyday experience, if something has never happened before, we are generally safe in assuming it is not going to happen in the future, but the exceptions can kill you and climate change is one of those exceptions.”

--Al Gore
Nobel Peace Laureate, U.S. VP

“I find people are more compassionate than governments. We keep asking the international community to act and to give more focus to our part of the world because you've don't this to us and what are you going to do about it? I've been waiting for an answer quite some time and we are running out of time.”

--Anote Tong
President of Kiribati

“Doing all we can to combat climate change comes with numerous benefits, from reducing pollution and associated health care costs to strengthening and diversifying the economy by shifting to renewable energy, among other measures.”

--David Suzuki
Educator

“If we do not change our negative habits toward climate change, we can count on worldwide disruptions in food production, resulting in mass migration, refugee crises and increased conflict over scarce natural resources like water and farm land. This is a recipe for major security problems....Investing now in safe-guarding people by helping them to adapt to climate change, will help save money and lives while building resilience. ”

--Michael Franti
Musician

“If we are ever to halt climate change and conserve land, water and other resources, not to mention reduce animal suffering, we must celebrate Earth Day every day -- at every meal. ”

--Ingrid Newkirk

“Beyond the borders of wealthy countries like the United States, in developing countries where most people in the world live, the impacts of climate change are much more
deadly, from the growing desertification of Africa to the threats of rising sea levels and the submersion of small island nations.”

--Amy Goodman
Democracy Now

"I must emphasize the importance of urgency. We cannot afford to have endless meetings and endless reasons for not doing anything. Most importantly, we cannot afford to be held hostage by countries finger-pointing on climate change, particularly those causing climate change...This is life and death survive issue for Tuvalu. It is now time to act, time to agree, time to move forward, time to save Tuvalu and the world."

--Enele Sopoaga Tuvalu PM

"It is clear that climate change affects us all, from Manhattan to Mumbai. We are all part of the problem and the solution. However, climate change does not affect us equally. The poor, most vulnerable people, who have contributed least, suffer first and worst."

--Ban Ki-Moon, UN SG

I. Course Description

Waves of Change examines the latest challenge facing the peoples of the Pacific. Waves of Change is a cutting-edge course covering developments in island communities and at the United Nations regarding climate change in the promotion and protection of human rights. Waves of Change offers an opportunity to study one of the most compelling issues in global affairs impacting each region of the world, particularly Oceania. The class will clarify the main challenges regarding climate change from the main international institutions to the community point of view. The goal will be to study specific country strategies to secure the right of self-determination in the face of the climate crisis. The course will examine the various adaptation projects and specific civil society campaigns guaranteeing climate justice in Oceania. There will also be a thorough analysis of the United Nations councils, agencies, programs and funds attempts to assist impacted Pacific Islands States.

The course will highlight the need for global action to address climate change and the adaptation strategies of Pacific rooted in indigenous knowledge. The community campaigns to the climate crisis will be analyzed as well as the international legal responses to defend the dignity of Pacific Islanders.

It is understood that a coordinated global response as well as country and citizens in each region must address issues at the intersection of sustainability and survival. Drawing on global developments, island community case studies, new international institutions and academic literature analysis, the course covers core challenges of climate change in the Pacific.

The course provides opportunity to study the ideas and initiatives related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals resulting from the Rio+20 conference and the current
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations. There will also be review of the Small Islands States role in global organizations. The course will allow students to read the most recent United Nations documents prepared by experts to understand sustainability and social justice in world affairs. There will also be a juxtaposition of the main international instruments aiming to address the climate crisis and the most positive developments in international initiatives. The course will allow students to review case studies of campaigns at the grassroots and global level. The course will also feature global discussion on topics including adaptation, mitigation, migration and self-determination.

From the citizen, community and global civil society perspective, we will look at the issues of climate change in the Pacific in its historical and current context and also focus on the importance of human rights in an era of globalization.

Pacific Islands civilizations are vulnerable to current impacts of climate change. Various communities are already experiencing ecological, economic, social and political impacts. An analysis of the legal questions being raised regarding human rights and sovereignty will also be explored to understand most positive alternatives for the Pacific Islands States. The global phenomenon provides opportunities and obstacles for the peoples of Oceania that must be thoroughly contested to provide insight for optimal policymaking and diplomacy campaigns to promote and protect the rights of people in Oceania.

We will learn the basic international instruments guaranteeing fundamental freedoms and study different case studies of islands adopting adaptation strategies in a human rights framework. We will expand our toolbox of knowledge beyond textbooks and use our expanding educational experiences to better understand climate change in the Pacific, including Prime Minister Cabinet Preparatory and Crisis Meetings class discussions and interactive dialogue with communities impacted by climate change.

Through readings, class discussions, guest speakers, role plays, films and small group work, students will gain a better understanding of climate change in the Pacific campaigns in international law and how to implement the most effective international human rights instruments in regard to the climate crisis in our communities and the countries of the world.

**II. Course Objective**

Examine the science and societal response to global climate change; Review history and current challenges relating to emerging global institutions relating to climate change in Oceania; learn the relevant instruments as well as other standards in international public law; develop understanding of daily working of international institutions dealing with climate change & human rights promotion and protection; study the ability of Pacific Islands States in international organizations, study the role of NGOs in international politics; engage in examining multilateral diplomacy and decision-making relating to climate change governance, citizen participation in public life; understand ability of self-empowerment through education and experience; begin process of envisioning possible
solutions for climate justice; and engage in human rights advocacy to realize rights relating to climate change in Oceania.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1) Understand and describe historical, cultural, social and political diversity of Oceania
1) Comprehend basics of international climate change and human rights law through clear and comprehensive research and reflection papers
2) Identify the important historical and emerging issues relating to climate change and human rights including international organizations attempts to address the core challenges from multicultural perspective
3) Analyze current global affairs including ethical reasoning to balance profit, people and planet and the process of change in the Pacific region
4) Explain the major issues addressed through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Rio+20 demonstrating knowledge of social sciences reached through ethical reasoning
5) Integrate personal experiences to understand contemporary challenges facing communities and countries from multicultural and world view perspectives specifically Pacific Islands States
6) Assist student to interact in a personal role of individual ability from grassroots to global perspective to contribute to world affairs relating to their role as future leaders
7) Engage student to gain sense of personal self and empowerment with oral and written skill set to participate interactively on multiple levels in public life as citizens of Oceania and the world

**III. Course Requirements**

**Grading Scheme**

10% Attendance, Participation, Prime Minister Cabinet Preparatory & Crisis Meetings, Class Room Readings Discussions

85% Written & Oral Exercises
   Journal (10%)
   Climate Change Country Report (15%)
   Climate Change Adaptation Project (15%)
   United Nations Council, Specialized Agencies, Programs and Funds Best Practices Model Addressing Climate Change in Oceania (15%)
   Climate Justice Campaigner in Oceania (15%)
   Service Learning Sustainability Project in Hawai'i / Oceania (15%)

5% Role Play and Social Justice Simulation
   United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (5%)

**IV. Texts**


V. WorthWhile Websites
VI. Videos

11th Hour
Age of Stupid
An Inconvenient Truth
Chasing Ice
Shift
Do the Math
Polar Apocalypse
Stories of Trust: Calling for Climate Recovery Series
Fever: Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Series
Conversations with the Earth: Indigenous Voices on Climate Change Series
Community Conversations on Climate Change: Four Short Films on Climate Change & Indigenous Peoples
Living in a Climate Changed World: Perspectives from the United Nations University Series
Confronting the Global Triple Crisis Series
Waves of Change: Climate Change in the Pacific Islands and Implications for Hawai'i
Series Episodes 1 - 10

VII. Course Outline & Activities

Writing Assignments
All papers are due on dates specified in syllabus. Reports should include sources

Journal (10 – 20 pages)
a) review readings, classroom discussions
b) current events (read newspapers, articles)
c) personal experiences in politics and daily living
d) soul searching reflections on relevant course topics relating to future of humanity

Climate Change Country Report (5-6 pages)
a) select Pacific Islands State and review how climate change is impacting all aspects of society
b) research and write about how communities are responding, UN assisting and elected officials leading
c) identify most compelling changes and emerging best practices
d) explore alternative futures paradigms based on global indicators

**Climate Change Adaptation Project (4 – 5 pages)**

a) select Pacific Islands State and review how climate change is impacting all aspects of society
b) research and write about how communities are responding, UN assisting and elected officials leading
c) discuss the philosophy of the people of Oceania sharing the perspective of the climate change
d) identify most compelling changes and emerging best practices
e) explore alternative futures scenarios based on global indicators

**UN Councils, Committees, Specialized Agencies, Programs and Funds Best Practices Model Addressing Climate Change in Oceania (4-5 pages)**

a) study, read and pick one of the UN bodies to identify how they have met objectives in Oceania
b) review the role of the Pacific Islands States in the UN body
c) examine the most holistic approach and positive results
d) analyze possibilities for next step by UN body

**Climate Justice Campaigner in Oceania (4-5 pages)**

a) select an individual or peoples movement similar to New Flags Flying showing how people of Pacific stand up for right of self-determination of their nation-state
b) identify inspiration to pursue passion to protect island nation and review the philosophy and worldview on cc
c) review the results from the campaign and vision for new steps to combat climate change

**Service Learning Sustainability Project in Hawai'i / Oceania (4-5 pages)**

a) survey area of opportunity to serve community seeking solutions to high carbon society
b) brainstorm, plan and organize activities to raise awareness, persuade personal choices and change public policy
c) share potential community project with classmates and wider campus
d) apply readings and class discussion into service learning project
e) author paper that shares lessons learned and indicate initial findings of service learning project

**Role Playing & Simulations**
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

a) review handouts, select role and begin group work
b) prepare statements to present positions
c) discuss and debate issues important to the negotiations to meet the climate crisis
d) contemplate root challenges and propose recommendations for states, UN agencies and UN Forum

Roles to Play

a) NGOs
b) UN Specialized Agency, Program and Fund
c) UN Member State
d) Transnational Corporation

VIII. Class Schedule

Week 1
January 17

Review Syllabus
Film: Waves of Change Series Episode 1
Keynote Address

Week 2
January 24

Reading: Climate Change Ch 1 - 3, p. 1 - 45
Reading: In Search of Refuge EWC p. 1 - 7
Reading: Waves of Change Reader
Film: The 11th Hour
Film: Stories of Trust Series
Film: Waves of Change Series Episode 2
Pacific Islands and Changing Climate Pt 1

Week 3
January 31

Reading: Climate Change Ch 4 - 6, p. 46 - 89
Reading: Why Science Alone EWC p. 1 - 7
Reading: Amnesty International, HR for HD p. 1 - 33
Film: The Age of Stupid
Film: Waves of Change Series Episode 2
Pacific Islands and Changing Climate Pt 2

Week 4
February 7

Reading: Climate Change Ch 7, p. 90 - 114
Reading: Forest Communities EWC p. 1 - 7
Reading: Living With a Climate EWC p. 1 - 7
Reading: Right Development Ch 1p. 1 - 16
Film: Waves of Change Series Episode 7
Climate Change and Issues
Film: Conversations with the Earth Series

Week 5
February 14
Reading: Right to Water p. 1 - 46
Reading: TI Climate Change p. xiv - 26
Reading: Right Development Ch 2 p. 17 - 48
Film: Waves of Change Series Episode 8&9
Climate Change and Indigenous Knowledge
Film: Fever Series
Assignment Due: Climate Change Country Report

Week 6
February 21
Reading: Right to Food p. 1 - 39
Reading: TI Climate Change p. 23 - 37
Reading: Right Development Ch 5-6 p. 95 – 103
Film: Revolution Green
Film: Kilowatt Ours

Week 7
February 28
Reading: Right to Health p. 1 - 39
Reading: TI Climate Change p. 45 - 50, p. 83 - 100
Reading: Waves of Change Reader
Reading: Right Development Ch 8 p. 117 - 125
Films: Waves of Change Series Episode 10
Waves of Change and Future Horizons

Week 8
March 7
Reading: Climate Vulnerability Monitor,
Introduction - Recommendations p. 14 - 35
Reading: TI Climate Change p. 166 - 170, p. 180 - 187
Reading: Right Development Ch 14 p. 179 - 193
Reading: Waves of Change Reader
Film: Fever

Week 9
March 14
Reading: Climate Vulnerability Monitor,
Key Issues p. 40 - 59
Reading: TI Climate Change p. 215 - 220, p. 270 - 288
Reading: Right Development Ch 23 p. 321 - 337
Reading: Waves of Change Reader
Film: Stories of Trust
Assignment Due: Climate Change Adaptation Project

Week 10
March 21
Spring Break

**Enjoy Article 24 and See Nature As We Love Her**

**Week 11**

**April 4**

Reading: Climate Vulnerability Monitor, Climate p. 104 - 153
Reading: TI Climate Change p. 297 - 328
Reading: Right Development Ch 28 p. 385 - 400
Reading: Waves of Change Reader
**Assignment Due: Journal**

**Film: Waves of Change Series**

**Role Play: UN Framework Convention Climate Change**

**Week 12**

**April 11**

Reading: Climate Vulnerability Monitor, Carbon p. 228 - 253
Reading: Waves of Change Reader
Film: Stories of Trust

**Assignment Due: UN Best Practices in Oceania**

**Week 13**

**April 18**

Good Friday - Good Day To Appreciate Nature

**April 22**

Earth Day — SustAINAbility Dialogue

**Week 14**

**April 25**

Reading: Climate Vulnerability Monitor, Carbon p. 254 - 271
Reading: Waves of Change Reader

**Assignment Due: Climate Justice Campaigner Oceania**

**Week 15**

**May 2**

Reading: Waves of Change Reader

**Assignment Due: Service Learning Sustainability Project**

**Assignment Due: Journals Final Reflections (Final)**

**Week 16**
May 9

Pa'ina Potluck