Fall 2009

PACS 491 THE CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC

Tuesday and Thursdays, 12:00-1:15
Moore 207

Instructor: Dr Terence Wesley-Smith
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Office hours: Tuesday 10:00-12:00am, Thursday 1:30-3:00, or by appointment

Course description
Recent events, including the deployment of an Australian-led intervention force into the strife-torn Solomon Islands, the bankruptcy of the once-wealthy Republic of Nauru, and armed coups in Fiji, provide dramatic challenges to the popular image of the Pacific Islands region as an idyllic backwater in a troubled world. The course uses a multidisciplinary approach to analyze some of the critical issues facing Pacific Islands societies today, paying particular attention to the continuing process of decolonization, and the impact of globalization on economic development and human welfare in the region. This course treats Hawai‘i as an integral part of the Pacific Islands region, and a central point of reference for discussion of major topics. It emphasizes indigenous experiences, voices, and perspectives, and seeks to foster multicultural respect and understanding.

Readings and resources
The required readings for each topic are listed in the course outline. There is no textbook for the class, but the required readings will be posted on the Laulima class website (get to Laulima via “quick links” on MyUH). A set of four maps of the region is available from the Center for Pacific Islands Studies (Moore 215) at a cost of $3.00. Students might also consider purchasing the two books they will be required to review (see “Book reviews” below).

UH has one of the best collections of Pacific Islands materials (including newspapers and periodicals) in the world. The Pacific Collection is located on the 5th Floor of Hamilton Library. The Internet is increasingly useful as a source of information on current events and issues in the islands region. Two sites have particular relevance for this course:

Daily news stories, extensive links to other resources, as well as a searchable archive.

Carving Out: Development in the Pacific http://www.abc.net.au/ra/carvingout/radio/
A website containing full transcripts from a 13-part series of programs on Pacific development issues broadcast on Radio Australia in 2001. You can listen to the programs
or read the transcripts. Several of the program transcripts are listed in the Course Outline as required readings.

**Requirement and assignments**
The class will meet twice a week throughout the semester. Lectures (sometimes by guests) will be supplemented by video presentations. Classroom discussion will be encouraged. There will be a midterm and final exam, two book reviews, and a video review. Each of these requirements will count towards the final grade as follows:

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book review I</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Book review II</td>
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<td>Video review</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
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**Attendance**
You are expected to attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate in discussions. Attendance will be monitored via a sign-in sheet. Please let me know ahead of time if you are unable to attend a class session. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade.

**Examinations**
The midterm and final are take home examinations that require essay responses. Questions will be distributed in class two weeks prior to the dates that examinations are due. The midterm should be between 6 and 8 double-spaced pages in length. The final examination should be 8-10 pages in length.

The midterm will be distributed in class on 10/01 and is due 10/15
The final exam will be distributed in class on 12/01 and is due 12/7

**Book and video reviews**
Students are required to submit two book reviews and one video review according to the following schedule:

**Book Review I, due 9/17**
Review Epeli Hau’ofa’s *Tales of the Tikongs*

**Book Review II, due 11/10**
Choose one of the following books to review: **either** Cathy Small *Voyages from Tongan Villages to American Suburbs*; **or** Albert Wendt *Sons for the Return Home*
Video Review, due 12/03
Review any one of the 8 videos used in this course (see list under “Videos” below).

Book and Video Review Requirements
Reviews should be in the range of 3-4 typed, double-spaced pages. Each review must include four items: 1) an indication of the author’s or filmmaker’s background; 2) a discussion of the author’s intent or purpose in producing the work; 3) a capsule summary of the contents of the book or video; 4) your thoughtful response or reaction to the work, and your assessment of its significance for understanding the Pacific region. The last part is the most important. Reviews can be organized around these four themes, which may be used as sub-divisions within the written text of the review.

Deadlines
The due dates for assignments are indicated in the course schedule. Generally, there will be grade penalties for late work. Please note that incompletes will only be granted under exceptional circumstances, such as documented illness.

Videos
We will watch the following videos in class. The videos will be on reserve at the Wong audio visual center at Sinclair Library for approximately two weeks after the screening in class. The library call number is listed after the title.

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<th>Video Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising Missionaries</td>
<td>13624</td>
<td>Kilim Taem</td>
<td>18783</td>
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<td>Half Life</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>Time and Tide</td>
<td>5988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islands on the Edge of Time</td>
<td>12511</td>
<td>Rising Waters</td>
<td>18236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coconut Revolution</td>
<td>20942</td>
<td>Pacific Star</td>
<td>13216</td>
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Acknowledging sources and plagiarism
Students writing a term paper, take-home exam, or book review are sometimes tempted to borrow facts, ideas, or phrases from other writers. This is especially the case now that the Internet allows almost instant access to huge amounts of material. It is perfectly acceptable to use and learn from other peoples’ work, provided that you acknowledge sources fully and appropriately. Not to do so can constitute plagiarism, defined by the Council of Writing Program Administrators as follows:

“In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source” <http://wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>

This is essentially a question of academic honesty, and any attempt to present the work of others as your own will be regarded as theft or misrepresentation. Plagiarism is treated very seriously by the UH administration, and a statement about it is included in the Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html>).

Presenting any material not your own without attribution is unacceptable, even if it is only a small part of an assignment. Some types of plagiarism are obvious, such as handing in a paper that has been written in whole or part by someone else, or copying an assignment or part of an assignment word-for-word from a book, website, or other source. Other forms of plagiarism may be less obvious, but just as serious. For example, using other peoples’ ideas, logic, or conclusions in your work without acknowledging the source constitutes plagiarism, even if you paraphrase the original or use different words.

In any academic setting, the disciplinary consequences of plagiarism are severe. Even though time or other pressures may make it tempting to cut-and-paste material off the Web, it is simply not worth the risk. I would much prefer that you approach me for help with an assignment, or request an extension of the deadline, than resort to cheating. Such practices compromise your integrity as an adult learner, and my time as an instructor.

The best way to avoid accusations of plagiarism is to cite sources appropriately. There are different ways of identifying sources. I do not mind which system you use, as long as you are consistent and make an honest attempt to identify your sources. The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is perhaps the easiest to use. Here you briefly credit sources with citations in parentheses in the text of your work, and give the complete description of each source in a list of References or Works Cited at the end of the document.

For example, in the body of your paper you might write:

_Epeli Hau`ofa is a highly regarded writer, perhaps best known for his insistence that Pacific Islanders “have considered the open seas their home for many thousands of years” (Clarke 2006). _Tales of the Tikongs_ contains twelve chapters, each of which explores a different aspect of development in this fictitious Pacific island (Hau`ofa 1994). Professor Hau`ofa relies heavily on a Pacific tradition of storytelling to explore the ways that indigenous peoples respond to economic and cultural forms of imperialism (Hereniko 1994, vii)._

In Works Cited or References, you would list these and other sources in alphabetic order according to the last name of the author or, if that is not available, the title of the publication or website:


For more information about acknowledging sources, consult a style manual or look for information on the Web.
Disability Accommodations

If you feel you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please 1) contact the KOKUA Program in Room 013 of the Queen Lili`uokalani Center for Student Services (phone: 956 7511 or 956 7612); 2) speak to me privately to discuss your specific needs. I am happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet access needs related to documented disability.
COURSE OUTLINE

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

8/25 Orientation
A discussion of the course structure, requirements and expectations

8/27 Overview of Oceania
An overview emphasizing the enormous geographic and cultural diversity of the region

Reading
Robert Kiste “Precolonial times,” Chapter 1, Tides of History: The Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century.
Carving Out, Program #1 “People of the Sea”

9/01 Imagining Oceania
Representations of this “sea of islands” that range from paradise to purgatory

Reading
Epeli Hau’ofa Our Sea of Islands. The Contemporary Pacific 6(1); 148-161.

9/03 Islands of globalization
The incorporation of island societies into global political, economic and cultural systems.
A look at the process as it continues today in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Video: Advertising Missionaries. Aspire Films, 1996 (Wong #13624)

Reading

9/08 Contemporary issues I
***Map quiz***
A survey of contemporary issues as reflected in the online news service, Pacific Islands Report <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pirereport/).

Reading

9/10 Contemporary issues II
Continuation of discussion of contemporary issues as reflected in the online news service, Pacific Islands Report.
PART II: DECOLONIZING OCEANIA

9/15 Colonialism and violence
A reminder of the nature of colonialism, and its extremely violent impact in some parts of the Pacific

Video: Half Life: A Parable for the Nuclear Age. Direct Cinema 1986 (Wong #851)

Reading
Robert Milliken 1985 Deadly Snow
Dennis O’Rourke letter in response to embassy press release

9/17 Decolonization: global perspectives
The post-World War II breakup of the great European empires; the role of the United Nations; the principle of self-determination

Reading

9/22 Decolonizing the Pacific Islands
A discussion of the process whereby Pacific Island entities have (or have not) achieved political independence from their colonial masters.

Reading

Further reading

9/24 Outcomes of decolonization
Independence, integration, and free association as outcomes of the decolonization process in the Pacific. Unresolved claims to self-determination.

Reading
9/29 Imbalances of power  
*Prospects for self-determination in Oceania in an era of globalization*

Video: Islands on the Edge of Time (Palau) (Wong 12511)

Reading  
Palau, in *The Pacific Islands: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Brij Lal, pp. 598-600  

**PART III: COUPS, CONFLICTS AND CRISES**

10/01 Conflict in the contemporary Pacific  
***Distribute midterm***  
*Recent events in Fiji and Solomon Islands have led some commentators to predict a “contagion” of violence and instability in the region as a whole. A look at some historical and contemporary factors producing tension and conflict in Oceania.*

Reading  

10/06 The Bougainville crisis  
*A discussion of the factors causing the decade-long secessionist crisis in Bougainville, an island province of Papua New Guinea, which may have cost the lives of more than 10,000 people.*

Reading  

10/08 Coconut Revolution  
*Video about the war in Bougainville (Wong #20942)*

Reading  
10/13 Bougainville: peace and reconciliation
The terms of the Bougainville peace agreement, and prospects for the future


10/15 Crisis in Solomon Islands ***Midterm due***
In June 2000 members of the Malaita Eagle Force took the Solomons Prime Minister hostage and engaged in a series of armed conflicts with a rival militia, the Isatabu Freedom Movement, that left many dead. A discussion of the factors behind the longstanding tensions between local landowners on Guadalcanal (represented by the Isatabu Freedom Movement) and migrants from the nearby island of Malaita (represented by the Malaitan Eagle Force).

Reading

10/20 Solomons: current situation and future prospects
The Australian-led intervention of July 2003. Social, economic, and political implications of the crisis. The challenge of rebuilding the state.

Reading
Tarcisius Kabutaulaka 2005 “Australian Foreign Policy and the RAMSI Intervention in Solomon Islands” The Contemporary Pacific 17(2), 283-308.

PART IV: GLOBALIZATION, SOCIAL CHANGE AND HUMAN WELFARE

10/22 The idea of “development”
We often divide the world up into “developed” and “underdeveloped” or “developing” countries without stopping to think where these categories came from and what they actually mean. A brief look the relatively recent origins of these ideas.

Reading
Notes on “The Discovery of Poverty” and “A Primer on Global Poverty and Inequality” Carving Out, Program #13, “Pacific Perspectives on Development”

10/27 Globalization and economic development in Oceania
A survey of some economic issues facing Pacific Islanders in an era of globalization.

Reading
Victoria Lockwood 2004 The Global Imperative and Pacific Island Societies. In Lockwood (ed.)
Carving Out, Program #4, “Sailing the Global Currents”

Further reading
John Overton 1999 Sustainable Development and the Pacific Islands. Chapter 1 in Overton and Scheyvens (eds.) *Strategies for Sustainable Development: Experiences from the Pacific*.

10/29 Tourism and its impacts: Pacific Star

Video: Pacific Star (Wong # 13216)
*Musical that examines issues associated with the establishment of tourism in a remote island in Vanuatu. Wan Smolbag Theatre group.*

Reading

11/03 Innovative responses to globalization: the case of Tuvalu
*A look at one of the region’s (and the world’s) smallest nations, and its attempts to deal with global forces and opportunities.*

Reading

11/05 Globalization and social change in the Pacific
*A discussion of the social and cultural implications of globalization or westernization for island societies.*

Reading

11/10 Health issues ***Book Review II due***
*Changing patterns of health and disease in the Pacific Islands*

Reading
South Pacific Commission 1988 Patterns of Disease and Causes of Death in the Pacific Islands.
11/12 Urbanization and youth
A look at some issues facing urban youth in Vanuatu

Video: Kilim Taem (Wong # 18783)

Reading
Carving Out, Program #7, “Changing Times”

11/17 Islanders on the move
A look at overseas migration and diaspora in Oceania

Reading

11/19 Migration, culture and identity

Video: Time and Tide (Wong #5988)

A video about expatriate Tuvaluans who return to Tuvalu from New Zealand, and the changes they witness in their home island.

Reading
Helen Lee Pacific 2009 Migration and Transnationalism: Historical Perspectives. In Migration and Transnationalism: Pacific Perspectives, edited by Helen Lee and Steve Tupai Francis, 7-41. Read pages 18-41

PART V: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

11/24 Disappearing Islands?
A survey of environmental issues in Oceania, with a particular focus on the threat of sea level rise.

Reading
Carving Out, Program #10, “Conserving the Future”

11/26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

12/01 Rising waters
***Distribute final***
Pacific Islanders express their fears about global warming and sea level rise

Video: Rising Waters (Wong # 18236)
12/03 Self-determination and sustainable development  **** Video review due
The challenge of finding a locally-rooted “Pacific Way” to sustainable development.

Reading
`Atu Emberson-Bain 1994 Sustaining the unsustainable? In Emberson-Bain Sustainable Development or Malignant Growth? i-xiii.

12/08 Review and Reflection

12/10 Review and Reflection

Thursday 12/17  ***Final Exam due by 4:30pm***