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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:15-2:15 or by appointment

Course Description
In this course we will be exploring Oceania as a home of Pacific Islanders. In contrast to the popular imagery of the region as an idyllic paradise, we will discuss Oceania in the contemporary context of change which is characterized by the struggles and triumphs of the human experience. The course uses a multidisciplinary approach to analyze some of the critical issues facing Pacific Island societies today, highlighting island voices and perspectives which inform and are informed by global processes.

Readings and Resources
The required readings will be available in the form of a xeroxed reader which can be purchased at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies office (Moore 215) for $5.00. A set of four maps of the region is also available 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 a useful source of information on current events and issues in the region and it is recommended that you regularly log on to the Pacific Islands Report http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/ in order to keep up with the contemporary Pacific. The Pacific Islands Report will be especially helpful in preparing your news report (see “Ocean Current Events” below).

Requirements and Assignments
I encourage meaningful and respectful dialog in my classes and so my expectation is that students will complete the assigned reading and come prepared to participate in class discussions. The required assignments include two exams (a midterm and a final), two book reviews, a group project, and a news report and will count to your grade as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCEN Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Participation
Participation in class discussions is a requirement in this course. I expect students to respectfully express their opinions, take stands on issues, and ask questions. You will
also be graded on the way you help fellow students who are facilitating discussions by addressing the issues posed by them.

**Ocean Current Events News Report (OCEN Report)**
At the beginning of each class (starting the third week of the semester Sept 13th) each student will prepare a brief report of current events in the region and then lead a brief discussion of the issues presented. In order to facilitate class discussion, the student news reporter will prepare questions which the rest of the class will be required to discuss.

**Book Reviews**
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 background; 2) the author’s intent or purpose in producing the work; 3) a capsule summary of the contents; 4) your thoughtful response or reaction to the work, and you reassessment 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 subdivisions within the written text of the review. Students are required to submit two book reviews according to the following schedule:

- *Book Review I, due September 29th*
  - Review Epeli Hauofa’s *Tales of the Tikongs*
- *Book Review II, due November 17th*
  - Review Albert Wendt’s *Sons for the Return Home*

**Group Project**
*Paper:* Students will work in groups of 3 or 4 to research an important issue in the Pacific Islands today. Results of the research will be presented in class towards the end of the semester and a short (4-5 page) report submitted for evaluation. The research topic should relate to the broad themes covered in the course, but not duplicate the specific issues or case studies outlined in the syllabus. The topic can relate to a single island place, or cover more than one country. The final report should include a brief description of the issue, provide some historical background, and present some ideas about future prospects and/or resolutions. A bibliography listing sources used is required.

*Presentation:* You are expected to use your creativity in presenting your group project to the class at the end of the semester. In line with the revised program statement of CPIS, I am requiring that you use performance, creative writing, artwork and/or multimedia to present your research. While your paper report will have the analytical and text-based component, in your group presentation you will have to use your imagination to convey your research in a creative way.

**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 the examinations are due. The midterm should be between 4 and 5 double-spaced pages in length. The final examination should be 6-7 pages in length.
PART 1: INTRODUCING THE REGION

Week 1
8/23 – 8/25
Introductions and Orientation (Approach and Course Model)
Overview of Oceania

Reading

Week 2
8/30 – 9/1
Imagining Oceania
Mapping the Region

Reading

Week 3
9/6 – 9/8
Contemporary Pacific Issues
Island Voices

Reading
Carving Out, Program 1: “People of the Sea.” See the “Carving Out: Development in the Pacific” webpage at http://www.abc.net.au/ra/carvingout
PART 2: DECOLONIZING OCEANIA

Week 4
9/13-9/15
Decolonization

*Oceania Current Events News Report (OCEN Report) begins*

Reading

Week 5
9/19-9/22
Postcolonial Resistance


Reading
O’rourke, Dennis. Letter in response to embassy press release.

Week 6
9/26-9/29
Decolonizing Pacific Studies

*Book Review 1 Due: September 29th*

Reading

PART 3: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Week 7
10/4-10/6

Environmental Issues in the Pacific

Video: *Rising Waters*

*Distribute Midterm Exam: October 6th*
Reading
Carving Out, Program #10, “Conserving the Future”
Carving Out, Program #13, “Pacific Perspectives on Development”

Week 8
10/11-10/13
Economic and Social Development

Reading

Week 9
10/18-10/20
Health
Gender
*Midterm Exam due: October 20 4:30 PM

Reading
Carving Out, Program #6, “A Healthy Outlook”

PART 4: CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC CULTURE

Week 10
10/25-10/27
Globalization
Mobility
Video: “Tatau: What One Must Do”

Reading
Carving Out, Program #4, “Sailing the Global Currents”
Carving Out, Program #7, “Changing Times”

**Week 11**
11/1-11/3
Cultures, Identities, and World Views

**Reading**

**PART 5: CRISSES, CONFLICTS, and CORRUPTION**

**Week 12**
11/8-11/10
Peaceful Pacific?

**Reading**

**Week 13**
11/15-11/17, & 11/22
Bougainville
Solomons
Video: Our Island, Our Fight

*Book Review 2 Due: November 17th*
*Group Meeting Time: November 22nd*
*(You will be given some time in class to finalize group projects)*

**Reading**
Week 14-15
11/29 Class Presentations
**Distribute Final Exam

12/1 Class Presentations
12/6 Class Presentations

12/8 Last Day: Reflection

**Final Exam Due: 13 December by 4:30PM