

Geography of Oceania – GEOG 335

Spring 2011

MWF 2-2:50

Kanaka`ole Hall 109

Prof. Sasha Davis

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*(please put “GEOG 335” in
subject)*

Office - Rm. 262 EKH

Office Hours: M: 10am-1pm,
W:10am-12pm, F: 8-9am or by
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Islands in the Pacific have been viewed in a variety of contradictory ways. They have been portrayed as homelands, tourist paradises, Edens, pockets of poverty, easy-going escapes from the modern world, isolated specks in a vast empty ocean, as the hub of a new global economy focused on the Pacific Rim, and as a socially connected region with long histories of migration and movement. In this class we will examine the physical, ecological and human environments of the Pacific region and the ways that the islands of the Pacific have developed in interaction with the rest of the world. We will also examine the impacts of colonialism, warfare and military weapons testing, poverty, the tourism industry, and environmental change.

Course Requirements:

Lectures: I expect that you will attend lectures, contribute to discussions in class, complete the assigned readings before class, take the exams and be responsible for making-up any work missed during an absence. If you miss a class I would suggest that you get the notes from a classmate and ask her/him about what we went over that day. Don't miss the exam days!! If you are someone who may miss classes throughout the semester because of athletics or another reason please let me know early in the semester so I can make note of it.

Readings: Readings for the class will be made available on Laulima and announced in class. Read all assigned material *before the class* for which it is assigned. We will discuss the readings in class and the material from the readings will be on exams. You can log on at <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>. The log on information is your UH username and password.

Staying in contact with me: My email, office hours and phone are listed on the top of the syllabus. Please stay in contact with me about your progress, questions you have, if you are going to miss class, be late on turning in an assignment, or if you are in need of any assistance to help you through your semester. You can also speak to me before or after class. *Also, to ensure that I get to know everybody in the class I am asking that each student come to visit me during my office hours sometime in the first three weeks.* If you can't make my scheduled office hours please contact me and we'll arrange another time. Also, if I contact you it will be using your UH email. You need to check it or set up your email so that it is forwarded to an account you do check regularly.

Things you will be graded on:

Exams:

There will be 2 exams during the semester. The information from the exams will come directly from the class discussions, readings and movies. The final exam is NOT cumulative; it only covers information since the second exam. The exams may have some multiple choice, but are largely short answer and essay questions.

Quizzes:

There will be 2 map quizzes early in the semester: one on the physical geography of the Pacific on Friday Jan 28 the other on the political geography of the region on Friday Feb 25. You should buy the Map from the bookstore that is required for the class. You may also be interested in some maps on-line at <http://www.mapsouthpacific.com/pacific/index.html>

Reading “Discussion points:”

On the first day of class for the week (usually Monday) you should write up at least 3 questions or ‘talking points’ that occur to you during the readings and come to class with them. This doesn’t have to be anything elaborate, but it is meant to be a way to keep discussion going in the class (as well as to help answer questions in class you may have had while doing the readings). You will turn in these comments at the end of class.

Keeping track of events in a country/island:

You will select a country or island in the Pacific region and record the events that are happening there during the semester. You need to find 2 stories each week and turn them in on the first day of class for the week (usually Monday). This can be as simple as finding news stories on-line each week and writing a paragraph commenting on the stories. You should select your country/island by . Attach a story to your discussion points for turn-in each class. *For the purposes of grading the news story and discussion points will be counted together.*

The Pacific Islands Report is a good place to start looking for news reports and to find links to other news outlets in the region:

http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/news_links_text.htm#Newspapers

Paper:

You will write a short paper this semester. Ideally it will be on the island/country that you have been keeping track of during the semester. The paper should be 7-10 pages long (double-spaced, standard margins) and it is due at the beginning of class on **FRIDAY, APRIL 29th**. The paper should include citations from relevant source materials. Beyond what you have discovered about the place while keeping track of it during the semester you should also discuss the physical and human geography of the place in detail. In addition you should be able to take one of the debates discussed in class (globalization, development, militarization, cultural identity, climate change, etc.) and show how that process is taking place in your island/country. This paper must be well researched and reference at least 5 *academic or scholarly* papers or books. *You may also reference news sources, web-based sources, etc., but you must have 5 scholarly/literary sources in addition to this.*

What an ‘A’ paper looks like:

The paper should be clearly written, an appropriate length, well organized, and turned in on time. While websites of various organizations and news outlets can provide valuable information about your topic, an ‘A’ paper is based on research that not only cites at least five scholarly sources (books and published articles) but also analyzes and critiques them. The paper should mesh the information from your research with concepts and readings covered in class during the semester, but I expect that you will consult a variety of

scholarly sources that are pertinent to your analysis that go beyond what was assigned in class. Papers that lack one or more of these elements will be graded lower than an A.

Attendance:

If you miss more than 3 classes during the semester you will start losing points at the rate of 25 points off final class points for each day missed (there are a total of 1000 points for the semester). In other words if you miss 3 classes you lose 25 points, 4 classes or more you lose 50 points, 5 classes 75 points, etc.

Grades will be distributed according to the standard UHH scale:

A 100-93; A- 93-90; B+ 90-87; B 83-87; B- 83-80; C+ 80-77; C 77-73; C- 73-70; D 70-60; F = below 60.

This is how the points will break down:

Exams:	400 (2 exams at 200 each)
Quizzes	100 (2 quizzes at 50 points each)
Reading Points	150 (15 turn-ins at 10 points each)
Country news articles	150 (15 turn-ins at 10 points each)
Final Paper	200
Total points:	1000

Academic dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism (submitting someone else's work as your own), cheating, and fabrication of information or citations. Don't do it. There are severe penalties for it. Refer to the UHH policy at <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/catalog/academic-dishonesty.html> for details.

Access: I encourage persons with disabilities to participate in this class. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible. Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office- Hale Kauanoë A Wing Lounge, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), uds@hawaii.edu - as early in the semester as possible.

Class Schedule:

(Note: This is an approximate schedule. If there are any changes to it I will announce it in class.)

Week	Topics	Assignments
1/10-1/14	Welcome! Introduction. Sea of Islands	
1/17-1/21	Geology, Geomorphology <i>Mon. - MLK Day (no class)</i>	Fri 2/21 select country to follow for semester.
1/24-1/28	Oceanography and the Culture of Ocean Spaces	Fri 1/28 Phys Geog Quiz
1/31-2/4	Climate and Climate Change	
2/7-2/11	Ecologies of the Pacific	
2/14-2/18	Migration into the Pacific	
2/21-2/25	European Contact <i>Monday – Pres. Day NO CLASS.</i>	Fri 2/25 Pol. Geog Quiz
2/28-3/4	Colonialism	
3/7-3/11	Missionaries	
3/14-3/18	Labor and Migration	Exam One Mon. Mar 14
3/19-3/27	SPRING BREAK! – No school	
3/28-4/1	Militarization	
4/4-4/8	Nuclear testing	
4/11-4/15	Pacific Identities	
4/18-4/22	Politics and Neo-colonialism <i>Fri. –no class</i>	
4/25-4/29	Tourism	Fri. April 29 Papers due
5/2-5/4	Economic Development	
5/9	FINAL EXAM Wednesday May 11 at 2pm	! Final Exam !

Reading list for Geography of Oceania

Selected chapters from: Rapaport, Moshe. (1999) *The Pacific Islands: Environment & Society*. Chapters on climate, geology, geomorphology, biogeography, and post-contact period.

Sa'iliemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor. (2009) "Beyond 'Migration': Samoan Population Movement (Malaga) and the Geography of Social Space." From *The Contemporary Pacific*, Volume 21, Number 1, Spring 2009, pp. 1–32

Jon Fraenkel and Stewart Firth (2009) "The enigmas of Fiji's good governance coup" in *The 2006 Military Takeover in Fiji: A Coup to End All Coups?* Edited by Jon Fraenkel, Stewart Firth and Brij V. Lal.

“Our Sea of Islands” by Epeli Hau`ofa (1999) from *Inside Out: Literature, Cultural Politics, and Identity in the New Pacific*. Ed. By V. Hereniko and R. Wilson. pp. 27–38.

Greg Dening. Ch. 1 from *Islands and Beaches* (1980) pp 9–34.

K.R. Howe. (2000) *Nature, Culture and History: the knowing of Oceania* pp.1–30.

“Father San Vitores” from R.F. Rogers *Destiny’s Landfall: a History of Guam*.

Lindstrom, Lamont and Geoffrey White. (1989) “War Stories” from *The Pacific Theater: Island Representations of World War II*, ed. by Geoffrey White and Lamont Lindstrom, p. 3–40. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

B. L. DeGeer and A. Doury. (2000). “Nuclear Weapons Test Programs of the Different Countries” in ed F. Warner and R. Kirchman. *Nuclear Test Explosions: Environmental and Human Impacts*. pp. 13-18.

Albert Wendt “The coming of the white man” from *Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree* 1999 (1974).

Patrick V. Kirch (2010) “Peopling of the Pacific: A Holistic Anthropological Perspective.” From *Annu. Rev. Anthropol.* 39:131–48