

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT WEST O'AHU  
SPRING 2011

MW 9:30-10:45 am  
Room E-105

**HAWAIIAN PACIFIC STUDIES/HISTORY 471  
POLYNESIA BEFORE EUROPEAN CONTACT (WI)**

**Instructor: Ross Cordy**

Phone: 454-4763 e-mail: [rcordy@hawaii.edu](mailto:rcordy@hawaii.edu)

Office Hours: Tues by appt., Wed 12:30-1:30 p, generally by appointment.  
Room D101-C

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**Course Description**

This class is a detailed overview of Polynesian history from initial settlement to European contact, covering the spread of settlement through Polynesia and the histories of selected island groups. A multi-disciplinary approach to history is used – looking at oral historic, early historic, historical linguistic and archaeological information. Among the islands usually studied are Tonga, Samoa, the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, Mangareva, Easter Island, the Society Islands (Tahiti), the Southern Cooks, Aotearoa (New Zealand), and the little known Chatham Islands. Among the subjects covered are the rise of the Tongan kingdom, the initial settlement of Eastern Polynesia from Samoa, the formation of stratified countries in Tahiti, Aotearoa's smaller societies with raiding and fortifications, and Easter Island's history with its large statues. The student will also get a more detailed knowledge of one island group through a research paper, learning basic research and writing methods.

The class aims are to (1) provide a detailed overview of Polynesian history prior to European contact, (2) focus on selected island groups, and (3) enable the student to get an even more detailed knowledge of one island group through a research paper.

**Required Text:**

There is no required text for this class, since there is no current book which is an overview of all the islands of Polynesia in any detail. Instead, compiled readings will be prepared and copied. These compilations will be available at a local copy shop for the students to purchase.

**Special Note:** Any student with a documented disability who would like to request special accommodation should contact privately Student Services (454-4700) and the instructor of this course.

**Grading: Total points: 300 points.** Grading will be generally be 90% and above = A, 80-89% = B, etc. However, grading will be by +/- within the grade categories. Some adjustments may be made given the point spreads (curve).

- ◆ Class attendance – 1 point for each class. This is to ensure that students learn the information on the different island groups' histories. With 30 classes, **the total attendance = 30 points.** [If problems arise preventing attendance, see the instructor.]
- ◆ 7 short quizzes – 15-20 points each. These will be given at the end of portions of the class covering related topics (early settlement) or related island groups (such as the Marquesas, Tuamotus, and Mangareva). These quizzes will be given roughly every 2 weeks. Each quiz will only cover part of the class; they are not cumulative. The questions will be primarily multiple choice with some true/false and fill-in-the-blank questions. Again, these are short quizzes. The aim of the quizzes is to help ensure that students learn the information on the different island groups' histories. **Total from quizzes = 130 points.**
- ◆ Research topic for research paper = **5 points.** A short paragraph describing what you plan to research. Topic must be approved by instructor. Due: Feb 7.
- ◆ Outline for research paper = **5 points.** One page listing the sections that you think will make-up your paper, with a brief summary of a sentence or two of what you anticipate would be in each section. Due: Feb. 7.
- ◆ Draft of a part of the paper = **10 points.** Include about 5 pages of a draft, so the instructor can review it, check for citations and writing. The draft will be returned with the instructor's comments. Due: Mar. 30 (may be turned in earlier).
- ◆ Research paper = **120 points.** You must choose one island group (not Hawai'i), conduct library research (looking at historical information in old journals of explorers, missionaries, etc.; archaeological studies; or oral histories recorded in the 1800s or in old journals or in more modern history, anthropology, and archaeology studies), and write a paper describing an aspect of that island groups' history before or at European contact. For example, you might focus on the elite in Tonga, their power and how respect behavior was given to them by the lower classes. Or you could look at the conflicts among the different Tahitian polities just before and at European contact. Or you might look at the oral histories on the rulers of Mangareva in the centuries before European contact with brief biographies on key rulers. Or you might look at trading – or warfare -- among the Maori of New Zealand. Or you could study the settlement of Easter Island when the large statues were present – where were the statues, and the houses in the settlements. You might want to look at the temples in the Marquesas or the Society Islands – what did they look like, where were they located. There is no required length, but the paper probably will be 15-20 pages long, with maps and pictures and references being extra pages. The aim of this paper is for you to become more familiar with one island group and its history, as well as learn basic research techniques. Due: Day of final exam.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**  
MW 9:30-10:45 am

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1. Mon. Jan. 10      Introduction to the Islands of Polynesia & Their Cultures
  2. Wed. Jan. 12      Environmental Similarities and Differences
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- Mon. Jan. 17      **HOLIDAY – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**
3. Wed. Jan. 19      Initial Settlement of Polynesia: The Early Oceanic People  
– 1,000 BC – 0 A.D.  
Read: Kirch (1987) & Kirch and Green (2001) in Readings on  
Early Oceanic Times and Western Polynesia.
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4. Mon. Jan. 24      Early Times – Proto-Polynesian Times 500 BC – 0 AD ??
  5. Wed. Jan. 26      Early Times -- Ancestral Polynesian Culture
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6. Mon. Jan. 31      **QUIZ 1 (15 pts)**  
Later Times in the West – Tonga 1  
Read: Campbell (2001) & other Tongan items in Readings on  
Early Oceanic Times and Western Polynesia.
  7. Wed. Feb. 2      Later Tongan History 2 (contd.)
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8. Mon. Feb. 7      **SUBMIT RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC & OUTLINE**  
Later Tongan History 3 (contd.)
  9. Wed. Feb. 9      Later Times in the West – Samoa 1  
Read: Clark (1996) and Davidson (1967) in Readings on  
Early Oceanic Times and Western Polynesia.
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10. Mon. Feb. 14      Later Samoan History 2 (contd.)
  11. Wed. Feb. 16      Later Samoan History 3 (contd.)

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- Mon. Feb. 21     **HOLIDAY – PRESIDENTS’ DAY**
12. Wed. Feb. 23     **QUIZ 2 (20 pts)**  
The Settlement of Eastern Polynesia: The Marquesas 1  
Read: Denning (1980); Linton (1923); Ferdon (1965) in Readings  
on the Marquesas, Tuamotus, Mangareva, and Easter Island.
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13. Mon. Feb. 28     The Marquesas 2 (contd.)
14. Wed. Mar. 2     The Marquesas 3 (contd.)
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15. Mon. Mar. 7     **QUIZ 3 (15 pts)**  
The Tuamotus 1 – A Vast Region of Atolls  
Read: Emory (1975) & Danielsson (1956) in Readings  
on the Marquesas, Tuamotus, Mangareva, and Easter Island.
16. Wed. Mar. 9     The Tuamotus 2 (contd.)
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17. Mon. Mar. 14     Mangareva 1 – A Small High Island at the South End of the  
Tuamotus  
Read: Buck (Hiroa) (1938) in Readings on the Marquesas,  
Tuamotus, Mangareva, and Easter Island.
18. Wed. Mar. 16     Mangareva 2 (contd.)
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- Mon. Mar. 21     SPRING BREAK
- Wed. Mar. 23     SPRING BREAK
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19. Mon. Mar. 28     Easter Island 1 (Rapa Nui)  
Read: McCoy (1979) & Kirch (1984) in Readings on the  
Marquesas, Tuamotus, Mangareva, and Easter Island.
20. Wed. Mar. 30     **SUBMIT DRAFT PART OF RESEARCH PAPER**  
**QUIZ 4 (20 pts)**  
Easter Island 2 (contd.)
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21. Mon. Apr. 4      Easter Island 3 - video
22. Wed. Apr. 6      Easter Island 4 – video (contd.)  
Society Islands 1 – Tahiti, Raiatea, Borabora, and other islands  
Read: Banks (1769, republished 1962) & Oliver (1974) in  
Readings on the Society Islands and the Southern Cooks.
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23. Mon. Apr. 11      **QUIZ 5 (20 pts)**  
Society Islands 2 (contd.)
24. Wed. Apr. 13      Society Islands 3 (contd.)
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25. Mon. Apr. 18      Southern Cooks 1 – Rarotonga, Mangaia, Atiu, Ma’uke, Mitiaro  
Read: Items on Southern Cooks in Readings on the Society  
Islands and the Southern Cooks.
26. Wed. Apr. 20      Southern Cooks 2 (contd.)
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27. Mon. Apr. 25      **QUIZ 6 (20 pts)**  
New Zealand 1 – Aotearoa  
Read: Salmond (1991); Walker (2004); Oliver (2002); and Barrow  
(1972.) in Readings on New Zealand and the Chatham Islds.
28. Wed. Apr. 27      New Zealand 2 – Aotearoa (contd.)
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29. Mon. May 2      New Zealand 3 – Aotearoa (contd.)
30. Wed. May 4      **QUIZ 7 (20 pts)**  
The Chatham Islands – The Land of the Moriori  
Read: Skinner & Baucke (1928) in Readings on New Zealand and  
the Chatham Islds.
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- Wed May 11 9-11 am      **PAPER DUE!!**
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## RELATIONSHIPS OF CLASS TO LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Hawaiian-Pacific Studies Concentration:** This class meets several learning outcomes of this concentration – (HPST1) being able to demonstrate a basic overview knowledge of Pacific geography, (HPST2) demonstrating an in depth knowledge of specific aspects of the cultures of the Hawaiian people and/or the cultures of Pacific Islanders (Polynesian history in traditional times), (HPST3) conducting research on specific Hawaiian-Pacific topics using primary and secondary sources and critically analyzing findings (Polynesian history in traditional times), and (HPST4) becoming able to present well-organized and competent research findings on specific Hawaiian-Pacific Studies topics in writing, orally, performances or other acceptable media (research paper on Polynesian history in traditional times).

**Humanities Division:** This class meets several learning outcomes of this division – (HUM1) becoming able to demonstrate a knowledge of the history, philosophy, arts, and or literature of different cultures from different global regions and indigenous traditions including Native Hawaiian (Polynesian history in traditional times), and (HUM3) becoming able to demonstrate an understanding of different Humanities disciplines' concepts, methods, primary sources, and knowledge (history, archaeology, historical anthropology, historical linguistics).

**UH West O'ahu:** This class addresses several learning objectives of UHWO – (UHWO1) demonstrating clear and effective writing for an intended audience (written communication); (UHWO4) Global and indigenous perspectives: becoming able to analyze issues from multiple cultural perspectives to articulate an understanding of the interconnectedness of local and global issues.