**Spring 2008**

**PACS 108: PACIFIC WORLDS:**
An Introduction to Pacific Islands Studies

**Time:** Tues. and Thurs; 10.30 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.
**Venue:** Kuykendall 209
**Instructor:** Dr. Vilsoni Hereniko
**Office:** Moore 212
**Telephone:** 956-2658
**Email:** vili@hawaii.edu
**Office Hours:** TBA

**Course Description**
Aloha kakou, bula vinaka, talofa lava, malo e lelei, kam na mauri, yokwe, hafa dai and welcome to Pacific Worlds, an introduction to Pacific Islands Studies. In this course you will be introduced to the histories of migration and colonization, geographies, politics, cultures, and arts of the Pacific Islands region, also known as Oceania. You will be introduced to concepts that draw upon a wealth of knowledge and experience across the region, allowing you to become more familiar with both the differences and the connections among the islands. Hawai`i is an integral part of Oceania, and we will be making constant references to social, economic, political, and artistic similarities and differences between America’s 50th state and its Pacific Islands neighbors. In short, this course will explore the intersections between Hawai`i and the rest of the Pacific region, broaden your knowledge of the Pacific, and provide you with insights into the Pacific Islander communities living in multicultural Hawai`i.

**Learning Outcomes**
At the end of the course students are expected to be able to:

a. Locate Pacific Island countries on a map and demonstrate an understanding of the nature and kinds of islands that make up Oceania.

b. Explain indigenous and colonial settlement of the Pacific and link this to the concept of a diverse region.

c. Describe Pacific worldviews and relationships between people, land, and sea, and demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of other cultures.
d. Describe the importance of the arts (broadly defined) to cultural survival in the contemporary Pacific Islands, as well as connections between art and knowledge.

e. Identify and explain several important political events in Pacific history.

f. Describe personal experience of Pacific Islanders in Honolulu to support intellectual knowledge about Oceanic diasporic populations.

g. Explain the interdisciplinary nature of Pacific Studies in relation to teaching, learning, and research.

Readings and Resources

There is a PACS 108 course reader available for purchase at $8.00 from the Center for Pacific Islands Studies (Moore Hall 215). This reader includes 4 color maps of Oceania. All students are expected to purchase the reader no later than 17 January, 2008.

Online Resources

Pacific Islands Report at http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/ provides daily news stories, extensive links to other sites and resources, as well as a searchable archive.

Pacific Magazine at www.pacificmagazine.net; monthly news magazine and associated website that features daily news updates.

Carving Out: Development in the Pacific at http://www.abc.net.au/ra/carvingout/radio/ is 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.

Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation at http://www.pacificaids.org/ is a website containing an archive of newsletter, events and helpful links on the growing concern of HIV/AIDS in the Pacific.

Polycafe at http://polycafe.com/ is a Polynesian/ Pacific daily news report focusing on popular Pacific related events in both the islands and the diaspora.

Spasifik magazine covers Pacific history, culture, music, fashion, the visual arts and sports in New Zealand and across the region, produced in Auckland, New Zealand, and is a useful text that you may want to consult every month.

Assessment

Class Participation and Attendance 10%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Map quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Random tests (6)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Class Participation and attendance**
You are expected to attend every class, keep up with the readings, and contribute to class discussions. You should arrive a few minutes before the class begins. A note from the doctor is required to take a missed or make up quiz or test. If you are sick and do not want to be marked absent, you must let the instructor know in advance. Two absences without a reasonable excuse (given to the instructor before the class) will result in a deduction of 1 mark, and so on.

**Group Project.**
You will be asked to join a group of four or five for the group project. This group assignment is intended to give you actual experience interacting with Pacific Islanders as well as working collaboratively with your peers. All members of the group will receive the same mark for this assignment. However, if you are not pulling your weight in this group exercise, other members might complain about you, in which case you could receive a lower mark.

**Map Quiz**
To do well, you will need to know the names and locations of islands, countries, and their capitals. You will be expected to know how to spell all names correctly.

**Short/Random tests (during class)**
These tests are given out in class. The purpose of these tests is to encourage you to read the weekly readings as well as attend the classes. There will be six tests of this nature during the semester. These tests will be given at the instructor’s discretion so make sure you attend all classes. Unlike the essay question, these are short answer questions that will focus on facts rather than interpretations.

**Essay**
The essay should be approximately five pages long, typewritten, double-spaced, and in a standard font of a normal size (12 point). Use a Times, Palatino, or Courier font. Your essay will be evaluated according to content, organization of ideas, and correct expression. It should cite at least three sources to demonstrate evidence of research. No late assignments will be accepted. Plagiarism will result in a 0 mark and possible disciplinary action.

**Examination**
The exam will consist of three sections, each worth 10 marks. The first section will consist of multiple choice questions; the second will require you to define or explain the meanings of terms; and the third will require you to write an essay of about 5 pages long. Material for the examination will be based on lectures and films shown during class as well as the readings.

**Grading Scale**
Your final grade will be assigned as follows:

- 96-100% = A+
- 93-95% = A
- 90-92% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 83-86% = B
- 80-82% = B-
- 77-79% = C+
- 73-76% = C
- 70-72% = C-
- 67-69% = D+
- 60-66% = D
- 59% and below = F

**Syllabus.**

**PART 1: MIGRATION AND COLONIZATION**

**WEEK 1:**

**Jan. 15:** Voyaging Through the Pacific.
Introduce syllabus and requirements of the course. Explain the various migration theories and discuss the archaeological evidences that point to the origins and initial migrations of Pacific islanders.

**Jan. 17:** Film on Navigation.
Refer to the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Hokule`a, as well as the role of Mau Piailug and Nainoa Thompson in the revival of Polynesian voyaging techniques and subsequent debunking of earlier theories of migration.

**Assigned Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**

**Assigned Film (to be screened in class):** Evenari, G. K. (1999). Wayfinders: a pacific odyssey, PBS Home Video: 60 minutes. [VIDEOTAPE 11163]
WEEK 2:
Jan 22: Geography of the Pacific Islands Region.
What are the different kinds of islands in the Pacific and what are important features of island ecology and the physical environment?

Assigned Reading:

Jan 24: Contact with Europeans
Discuss how the Pacific was named, mapped, and constructed by the West. Explain how we define the boundaries of the Pacific Islands Region and describe the distinguishing features of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.


WEEK 3:
Jan 29:Colonization and Imperialism.
Whalers, Traders, Beachcombers, Captain Cook. Explain the cultural, political, and discursive domination of colonialism in the Pacific. Describe the violence of colonialism and How it has impacted issues of class, race, and gender in the Pacific.


Recommended Reading:

Assigned Film (to be screened in class): Then There Were None. (full details?)


Jan 31: Christianity in the Pacific
Describe the historical impacts of Christianity on Pacific societies. What role did the missionaries play in social change in the Pacific? Explain how Christianity has become ‘traditional’ in Oceania.

** Assigned Reading: 


**PART II: GOVERNANCE, REGIONALISM, AND GLOBALISM**

**WEEK 4:**

**Feb. 5:** Traditional and Colonial Politics.  
Second World War; Independence movements. The role of the arts in decolonization, particularly in Polynesia and Melanesia. Micronesia’s relationship with the United States. France and Britain in the Pacific.

** Assigned Reading:  

**Assigned Video (to be screened in class): Tanim.**

**NOTE: MAP QUIZ TODAY, AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

**Feb. 7:** Hawaiian Struggles for Sovereignty  
Hawai`i’s history and relationship with the United States.

** Assigned Reading:  

** Recommended Reading:  

**Assigned Video (to be screened in class): Act of War.**
WEEK 5.

Feb. 12: Other Struggles for self-determination in Oceania
A comparative look at struggles of the Aborigines of Australia and the Maori of New Zealand.

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:

Feb. 14: Coups in "Paradise."
Discuss recent conflicts in the following countries: Bougainville, Fiji, the Solomons, and West Papua. Examine some of the reasons for corruption and violence.

Assigned Reading:


Assigned Video (to be screened in class); A race for rights.

Recommended Reading:


Invited Speaker: Tarcicius Kabutaulaka.

WEEK 6.

Feb. 19: Regional Cooperation
Vast distances in Oceania’s “sea of islands” as well as cultural, historical, and economic differences make regional
cooperation difficult and expensive. And yet Pacific nations continue to operate and cooperate as a single entity in some areas. What are the benefits and challenges of a regional identity for Oceania?

Assigned Readings:

Feb. 21: Globalism
The Pacific is not an island unto itself; instead, it is connected to and influenced by external forces outside the region. It is therefore vulnerable to special interests of powerful countries such as the United States, China, and Japan.

Assigned Reading:

PART III: TOURISM, DEVELOPMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

WEEK 7:
Feb. 26: Traditional cultures and tourism
The Pacific is often seen as a hospitable tourist destination and many Pacific island nations rely heavily on the tourism industry for employment for its citizens as well as revenue. Is it possible to reconcile the expectations and desires of tourists with island cultures and traditions? The readings for this week take a critical look at tourism and its impact on island cultures.

 Assigned Reading:


Feb. 28: Tourism in Hawai`i.
In this class we look at the impact of the tourist industry in Hawai`i.
Assigned Reading:

WEEK 8.
March 4: Development: Who Benefits?
Explain the internal and external forces calling for development in Oceania. What are the positive and negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts of development in the Pacific? Why do many development projects in the Pacific fail to prosper?

Assigned Listening.


Assigned Reading:


Recommended Video (to be screened in class): Black Harvest

March 6: Development in Hawai`i.
This class focuses specifically on development in Hawai`i.

Assigned Reading:
For this class, you are expected to research the local newspapers and/or magazines and come to class prepared to discuss what you discovered about development and its impact on the environment or Hawaiian culture. If possible, photocopy the article you discovered and be prepared to read excerpts from it.
Recommended Reading
If possible, try to read this play on development, written by a Hawaiian playwright.

WEEK 9.

March 11: Global Warming and Rising Sea Levels

Assigned Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Assigned Film (to be screened in class); Time and Tide.

March 13: Climate Change in Micronesia

Assigned Reading:


Assigned Video (to be screened in class): ?? (one by Micronesian seminar?)

PART IV: PACIFIC DIASPORA

WEEK 10.

March 18: Overview of Migration and Remittances.
Explain the links between people and their land in the Pacific? Discuss how links to home/land can extend beyond island shores?

Assigned Reading:

March 20: A Personal Reflection on Cultural Identity.

Assigned Reading: Gegeo, D.W. 2001 “Cultural Rupture and Indigeneity: Re Envisioning Place” The Contemporary Pacific 13, 2: 491-507

Recommended Video (to be screened in class.) Chamorro Dreams.

March 24 – 28: SPRING RECESS

WEEK 11.

April 1: Polynesians in New Zealand.
Discuss reasons for migration to New Zealand and New Zealand’s relationship to Samoa, Niue, Cook Islands, Tokelau and other Polynesian countries.

Assigned Reading

Recommended Reading:

Assigned Video (to be screened in class): Various scenes from Sons for the Return Home.

April 3: Islanders in the United States
Describe and discuss the Pacific Islander American Experience. Challenges and opportunities for Islanders in the U.S.

Assigned Reading: Helen Morton 1998 “Creating their Own Culture: Diasporic Tongans” The Contemporary Pacific 10, 1: 1-30

Recommended Reading:
Kauanui, Kehaulani (article on off-island Hawaiians)

Assigned Video (to be screened in class): (1997). Tatau: what one must do, Corporation for Public Broadcasting: 27 min. [DVD 3171]
WEEK 12.

April 8: Islanders in the diaspora
What is the population of Oceania and where is the diaspora?
What are the push and pull factors of mobility in the Pacific?

Assigned Readings:


Recommended Readings:

April 10: Assimilation, Adaptation, Resistance
What does “globalization” mean in the Pacific region?
Explain how Oceania is responding to the forces of globalization?

Assigned Reading.

Recommended Listening:

Assigned video (to be screened in class): ??

NOTE: ESSAY ASSIGNMENT IS DUE TODAY, NO LATER THAN 4.30 P.M.

PART V: CONTEMPORARY ARTS AND CULTURES

WEEK 13:
April 15: Overview of contemporary art and culture in the Pacific. Explain what traditional culture is and how it evolves
and changes through time. Discuss issue of authenticity in relation to art and culture.

Assigned Reading:

Recommended Reading:

April 17: Representations of Pacific Islands in Film & Video
An overview of filmmaking in the Pacific, beginning with Hollywood’s representations and ending with Pacific Islanders behind and in front of the camera.

Assigned Reading.
Hereniko, Vilsoni. “Pacific Islanders in Film and Video,” Ifilm Connections <www..asiapacificfilms.org>

Recommended Reading:
Review of Whale Rider:

Review of Samoan Wedding and No.2:

Assigned Videos (to be screened in class): O Tamaiti; Two Cars, One Night; Hawaiian Sting.

Recommended Film:

WEEK 14.
April 22: Pacific Literature
Describe the emergence of Pacific Literature. Explain the common themes Pacific writers address today.

Assigned Reading:
of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, 1-41.


Writer invited to class: Albert Wendt or Haunani-Kay Trask.

Recommended Video: A New Oceania

Recommended Listening.

April 24: Visual Arts
How have Pacific Islanders been represented in visual arts and how does this contrast with the ways in which island artists represent themselves? How is tradition being extended creatively in visual art form and content?

Assigned Reading:
Thomas, Nicholas (on John Pule)

Recommended Reading:

Artist invited to class: Carl Pao or Meleana Meyer.

NOTE: GROUP ASSIGNMENT IS DUE TODAY, NO LATER THAN 4.30 P.M.

WEEK 15.
April 29: Performance: Music, Dance, Theater
Discuss the social functions of music, dance, and theater as well as commercialization of these art forms. Refer to the Polynesian Cultural Center as a tourist attraction. What are some of the features of Pacific music and dance that make it distinct? What are some of the ways in which Pacific music and dance has been transformed by tourism, by the stage, and in the diaspora?

Assigned Reading:

Assigned Video (to be screened in class)
Black Grace: From Cannon’s Creek to Jacob’s Pillow.


Recommended Viewing:
Dances of Life; A Small Samoan Wedding.

May 1: The Festival of Pacific Arts
Discuss the importance of this festival that began in 1972 and now held every four years.

Assigned Reading:

Recommended Reading:


Week 16.

May 6: De-colonizing Pacific Studies
Epeli Hau`ofa re-imagines the Pacific as a “sea of islands.” Explain the impetus for and history of decolonization in the Pacific.

Assigned Reading

Recommended Resources:

Last Day of Class: Evaluation of course.

EXAMINATION: The exam will be held on Tuesday 13 May, from 9.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m. in Kuykendall 209.