

Green Indigeneities  
English 317 (004) / American Culture 301 (009)  
Fall 2010

Prof. S. Najita

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday, Thursday 10-11:30  
Location: G168 Angell Hall

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Course Description

This course examines environmental issues as they engage, relate to, and contradict with indigenous belongings to land and place in the Pacific Islands and beyond. We will examine the histories of colonialism and imperialism that set the stage for contemporary formations militarization, tourism, national parks, and genetically modified organisms, issues that engage both questions of sustainability and indigenous political sovereignty.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Carlos Andrade. *Hā'ena: Through the Eyes of the Ancestors*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2008  
Patricia Grace, *Potiki*  
Witi Ihimaera, *Whale Rider* (american edition)  
Leslie Silko, *Ceremony*  
Paul Alan Cox, *Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rainforest*.

**COURSEWORK**

Participation & Discussion	20%
Journals	20%
Midterm Paper (5 pages)	20%
Final Paper	20%
Final Collaborative Project	20%

## **Attendance & Participation**

Your attendance and participation in discussions are highly valued contributions. Students should read the assigned material prior to the scheduled class period, bring the printed material with you to class, and be prepared to be active discussants. Because class participation and regular attendance are central requirements of this course, 5 unexcused absences constitute a failing grade for the course. Since discussion and class participation are one of the ways learning takes place in this course, the instructor may call on you. (This is no cause for alarm – just careful thought and contribution.)

## **Journals**

Journal responses are compact writing assignments intended to help focus your reading and understanding of the course material, to prepare you for lectures and discussions, and provide opportunities for you to practice and hone your close reading and critical thinking skills. At times I will indicate the topic or set of questions I would like the journals to address. At other times, I will indicate a more open set of concerns for the journals. Journals will be due at the beginning of class.

## **Final Collaborative Project**

This is a collaborative piece which should fall into one of the following categories:

- Performance: music, speech, dance
- Film or other electronic media
- Creative writing
- Art

Intellectual standards will be the same as for papers, and students will be expected to show their ability to *critically* engage with class materials. One of our goals in this course is to encourage students to develop their skills at working with one another, learning from and complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses. Through this collaborative project, students will practice and develop analytical skills in media that are not traditionally recognized as obviously analytical in the disciplines of history and literature.

Note: If you wish to mount a website for your non-written piece and would like to receive instruction, please let your instructor know early in the term so we can arrange for student groups to attend training early on at the Knowledge and Navigation lab.

## SCHEDULE OF READING

9/7 T Introductions

### Land and Place

9/9 R Lucy Lippard. "Landbase: Mountains and Arroyos, Grandmothers and Uncles" and "Town and Country and the Futures Man," *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society*, pp. 140-159.

9/14 T Carlos Andrade. Chapters 1, 2, 3. *Hā'ena: Through the Eyes of the Ancestors*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2008.

Basso, Keith H. *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape Among Western Apache*. Albuquerque: U. of New Mexico Press, 1996.  
chapters 2 and 4, "Stalking with Stories" and "Wisdom Sits in Places," pp. 27-70, 105-150.  
[indigenous place names in western Apache]

### Imperialism, Colonialism & the Environment

9/16 R [Am Studies Ecological Destruction & Empire]

Worster, Donald. *Under Western Skies: Nature and History in the American West*. NY: Pantheon Books, 1981.  
[the West and the South were produced by the capitalist revolution in agriculture which is based in dispossession and nonwhite workforce exploitation. ]

LaDuke, Winona. "White Earth: A Lifeway in the Forest." *All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life*, Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 1999: 115-138  
[concept of "environmental colonialism"]

9/21 T *Act of War* – to set up issue of annexation

### Mālama 'Āina: Land as Parent

9/23 R Kame'eleihiwa, *Native Land, Foreign Desires*, chapters \_\_\_\_

Dan Taulapapa McMullin "Fanua" paintings

9/28 T Handy, Handy, and Pukui. *Native Planters in Old Hawaii: Their Life, Lore, and Environment*, pp. 1-68

## **Settler Colonialism: Land as Property, Real Estate – Displacement of Natives**

10/1 R *Noho Hewa: The Wrongful Occupation of Hawaii* (film)

Plumwood, Val. *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature*. London: Routledge, 1993. Chapters 1, 2, and conclusion. 19-68, 190-6, 199-205, 217.

10/5 T Patricia Grace, *Potiki*

10/7 R *Potiki*  
*Bastion Point*

## **Conservation and the Sacred Feminine I: Pele**

10/12 T Keola Beamer, "The Shimmering, ka 'olili" and "Pohaku"  
McPherson, "Quiet Title," "Up Mauka" and "The Waking Stone."  
"Waikiki" poem, mele "waikiki"

McGregor, Davianna Pōmaika'i. "Nā Kua'āina and Cultural Kīpuka" and "Puna: A Wahi Pana Sacred to Pelehonuamea," in *Nā Kua'āina: Living Hawaiian Culture*, pp. 1-48, 143-90.

Spence, Mark David. *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1999.

## **Bombs, Bikinis, and Bases – Global Indigenous Connections**

10/14 R *Half Life: A Parable of the Nuclear Age* (86 min.)

Lippard, Lucy. "Death by Geography." *Lure of the Local*. 169-192.

10/19 T **FALL BREAK – NO CLASS**

10/21 R Testimonies from Marshall Islands

dé Ishtar, Zohl. "Fire in the Water." in *Daughters of the Pacific*. North Melbourne: Spinifex Press, 1994.

MIDTERM PAPER DUE

## **Oceanic Genealogies**

10/26 T Ihimaera, *Whale Rider*

10/28 R *Whale Rider*

Hiro, Henri. selected poems

McMullin, Dan Taulapapa. "The Fire that Devours Me': Tahitian Spirituality and Activism in the Poetry of Henri Hiro" *International Journal of Francophone Studies* 8.3 (Dec. 2005): 341-57.

11/2 T Silko, *Ceremony*

11/4 R Silko, *Ceremony*

Eric Cheyfitz, *Balancing the Earth: Native American Philosophies and the Environmental Crisis* *Arizona Quarterly* 65. 3 (Autumn 2009).

[http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.umich.edu/journals/arizona\\_quarterly\\_a\\_journal\\_of\\_american\\_literature\\_culture\\_and\\_theory/v065/65.3.cheyfitz.html](http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.umich.edu/journals/arizona_quarterly_a_journal_of_american_literature_culture_and_theory/v065/65.3.cheyfitz.html)

11/9 T *Ceremony*

Eichstaedt, Peter H. *If You Poison Us: Uranium and Native Americans*. Santa Fe: Red Crane Books, 1994.

[1200 uranium mines on Navajo Res]

LaDuke, Winona. "Native Environmentalism." *Earth Island Journal* 8.3 (Summer 1993).

### **Conservation, Biopiracy, and the Sacred Feminine II: Nafanua**

11/11 R Cox, *Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rain Forest* (excerpts)

Harry, Debra. "High-Tech Invasion: Biocolonialism." in *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2006. 71-80.

11/16 T Wendt, *Nafanua* (excerpts)  
*Nafanua*, poems by Tusiata Avia

Visit by Keala Francis

## **Water Rights**

11/18 R Lippard, Lucy. "High Floods and Low Waters." *Lure of the Local*. pp. 160-168

Nakuina, E. M. "Ancient Water Rights and Some of the Customs Pertaining to Them." *The Hawaiian Annual*, ed. Thomas G. Thrum. Honolulu: Thomas G. Thrum, 1893. 79-84.

Helmreich, Stefan. "Alien Species, Native Politics: Mixing Up Nature and Culture in Ocean O'ahu." *Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 2009. 145-70.

## **PROJECT WORKDAY**

11/23 T Visit by Isaac Moriwake

Moriwake, Isaac. "Deconstructing Property"

McGregor, Davianna Pōmaika'i. "Kaho'olawe: Rebirth of the Sacred." from *Nā Kua'āina: Living Hawaiian Culture*, pp. 249-85.

11/25 THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

## **Biopiracy**

11/30 T **PROJECT WORKDAY**

Harry, Debra and Le'a Malia Kanehe. "The BS in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): Critical Questions for Indigenous Peoples." in *The Catch: Perspectives on Benefit Sharing*, ed. Beth Burrows. Edmonds, WA: Edmonds Institute. [www.ipcb.org/publications/other\\_art/bsinabs.html](http://www.ipcb.org/publications/other_art/bsinabs.html).

Shiva, Vandana. "TRIPS Agreement: From the Commons to Corporate Patents on Life." in *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization*, eds. Jerry Mander and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2006. 81-88.

York, Suzanne. "Genetic Pollution of Mayan Corn." in *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization*, eds. Jerry Mander and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2006. 144-48.

Helmreich, Stefan. "Blue-Green Capitalism: Marine Biotechnology in Hawai'i." *Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2009. 106-44.

12/2 R        **PROJECT WORKDAY**

12/7 T        PRESENTATIONS

12/9 R        PRESENTATIONS  
LAST DAY OF CLASS

FINAL PAPER DUE DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> MONDAY, NOON.