In recent years, gender has become a popular lens through which Pacific Islanders' historical and contemporary experiences have been analyzed and understood. At the very least, many of the recent gender-informed studies have brought the experiences of Pacific women out of the margins of history, and have thus enhanced and deepened our knowledge of Islanders' pasts. The same can be noted of current studies of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gender liminal persons. But these works do more than simply expand our range of analysis to include a wider variety of historical actors and agents. The field of gender studies also sensitizes us to a wider world of symbols, signs, and metaphors which inform Islanders' lives, both past and present.

We will consider the experiences of men and women from across the Pacific Islands in particular historical and contemporary contexts. We will focus on the ways in which the varied histories of such encounters as colonialism, militarism, tourism, and contemporary feminism have influenced and have been influenced by particular gender relationships in the Islands. We will also attend to questions of representation—to the ways in which Islanders have been portrayed and understood by both indigenous and non-indigenous authors in popular cultural media such as film, video, magazines, creative writing, and photography, as well as in an ever-expanding body of academic writing. Furthermore, our focus on gender will be combined with a consideration of issues of race, power, and class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Attendance and participation: 10%
Because this course will meet only once a week, I request your prompt attendance at each meeting. Furthermore, while I will begin each session with an introductory lecture on the weekly topic, for the most part this class will be a discussion-oriented one which will rely upon the active participation of you and your fellow classmates.
Critical review essays: 6 @ 10% each = 60%
For 6 weeks of the semester, you must submit a 2-3 page essay which engages in a critical analysis of the readings for the week. You may choose whichever 6 topics most interest you. Essays must be submitted at the end of the class period.

These short papers are not intended to be summaries, but are rather analytic thought-pieces. Approach the articles critically, always interrogating the relevance and politics of what you read. Remember to consider the articles in the context of the overall theme for the week. What did or didn't you like about the article's contents? What did or didn't you agree with? What did you consider to be provocative and why? Did you read anything that disturbed you and why? These are the kinds of issues I want you to address.

Discussion Facilitator: 2 @ 15% each = 30%
You will be asked to lead 2 class sessions of your choosing--which you will sign up for in the second and third weeks of class. In conducting the class for those weeks, I would ask you to prepare a short (10-15 minutes) presentation based upon the required readings which both summarizes and critiques their themes and approaches. You should also prepare questions and discussion points in order to facilitate the participation of all class members. I would encourage you to come and visit me in my office to discuss possible ideas for classroom conversation.

REQUIRED BOOKS
Zohl de Ishtar, Daughters of the Pacific
Sia Figiel, Where We Once Belonged
Lynn Wilson, Speaking to Power: Gender and Politics in the Western Pacific

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Wk 1, Aug. 26: COURSE INTRODUCTION

Wk 2, Sept. 2: SURVEYING THE EURO-AMERICAN GENDER CANON


Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Analysis." American Historical Review 91:5, 1053-1075.

Recommended:


**Wk 3, Sept. 9: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER ISSUES IN THE PACIFIC**


Dan Taulapapa McMullin, "Cities of the Plain Like Islands in the Sea." *Wasafiri* 25, Spring 1997, 57-59.


Recommended:

Allan Hanson, "Female Pollution in Polynesia?" *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* 91:3, September 1982, 335-381.


Caroline Ralston, "The study of women in the Pacific." *The Contemporary Pacific* 4:162-
Wk 4, Sept. 16: GENDER AND LITERATURE (SHORT STORY, POETRY)


Kauraka Kauraka, "Darkness within the Light." In *Nuanua,* 50-51.


Dan Taulapapa McMullin, "Mala in Minnesota: Notes on Sex, Race and Violence."


Momoe Von Reiche, "My Husband." In *White Feathers*, 47.

**Wk 5, Sept. 23: GENDER AND REPRESENTATION**


**RECOMMENDED:**


**Wk 6, Sept. 30: GENDER AND COLONIALISM**


J. Kehaulani Kauanui, "Off-Island Hawaiians 'Making' Ourselves At 'Home': A (Gendered) Contradiction in Terms?" Forthcoming.


Noenoe Silva, "Ku'e! Hawaiian Women's Resistance to the Annexation." In Joyce N. Chinen, Kathleen O. Kane, and Ida M. Yoshinaga, eds. *Women in Hawai`i: Sites,


RECOMMENDED:


Laura Torres Souder, "Unveiling Herstory: Chamorro Women in Historical Perspective." Pacific History: Papers from the 8th PHA Conference, 143-161.

Daphne Zale, "Women Ask for Peace and Justice on Bougainville." In Indigenous Women, 113-121.

Wk 7, Oct. 7: GENDER AND FILM (DOCUMENTARY)


SUGGESTED FILM LIST (choose one):

Chamoru Dreams
Guardians of the Flute
Happy Birthday Tutu Ruth
Islands on the Edge of Time
Land Divers of Melanesia
Samoan Heart
Storytellers of the Pacific
Tatau: What One Must Do

Wk 8, Oct. 14: GENDER AND HEALTH

Donald Denoon, "Medical Care and Gender in Papua New Guinea." In Family and Gender in the Pacific, 95-107.

Margaret Jolly, "Other mothers: maternal 'insouciance' and the depopulation debate in Fiji and Vanuatu, 1890-1930." In Maternities and Modernities, 177-212.


Recommended:


Wk 9, Oct. 21: GENDER AND MILITARISM


RECOMMENDED:


Wk 10, Oct. 28: GENDER AND LITERATURE (NOVELS)


Wk 11, Nov. 4: GENDER AND FEATURE FILM

SUGGESTED FILM LIST (choose one):

Blue Hawaii
Hawaii
Krippendorf's Tribe
Once Were Warriors
Rapa Nui
South Pacific
Te Rua
Utu

Wk 12, Nov. 11: HOLIDAY, VETERANS DAY

Wk 13, Nov. 18: GENDER AND POLITICS


RECOMMENDED:
Zohl dé Ishtar, Daughters of the Pacific, 43-63.

Wk 14, Nov. 25: GENDER AND TOURISM


Zohl dé Ishtar, Daughters of the Pacific, 84-97.


Konai Helu Thaman, "Environment-friendly or the new sell? One woman's view of ecotourism in Pacific Island countries." In Sustainable Development or Malignant Growth?, 183-191.


Wk 15, Dec. 2: GENDER AND FEMINISM IN THE CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC


Alaima Talu, "The role of Women in the Development of Kiribati." *Pacific History: Papers from the 8th Pacific History Association Conference,* 177-182.

**Wk 16, Dec. 9: PARTY!**