

REL 663c
C SEMINAR IN HAWAIIAN RELIGION
SPRING 2010

**TRADITIONS OF THE ORIGIN OF THE
UNIVERSE**

Wednesday 4:00–6:30 PM, Sakamaki A302

Traditionally, Polynesians understood something by identifying its origin. A person was understood through his or her genealogy. The curious shape of a boulder was traced in story to the action of a god. The great intellectuals extended this method to their greatest challenge: understanding the universe as a whole. Their chants and stories of the origin of the universe represent the highest level of Polynesian speculation.

The seminar will begin with a brief survey of traditions from other Polynesian groups: Sâmoa, Tonga, the Society Islands, and New Zealand. Hawaiian traditions will then be studied in their Polynesian context. The main text will be the *Kumulipo*, long recognized as a masterpiece of world literature and one of the most important sources for our understanding of Hawaiian religious culture. The importance of the *Kumulipo* and other origin traditions for modern Hawaiian cultural consciousness will be investigated.

Students will write one twenty-five-page paper and make a presentation in class on the subject of their paper. Knowledge of the Hawaiian language is desirable but not required.

Instructor: John Charlot
SAK A307 Telephone: 956-6848 charlot@hawaii.edu

**REL 663C TOPICS IN HAWAIIAN RELIGION
SPRING 2010
TRADITIONS OF THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE**

Wednesday 4:00–6:30 PM, SAK A302

Instructor: John Charlot

Sakamaki A307

Telephone: 956-6848 charlot@hawaii.edu

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Office Hours: TR 11:30 AM–12:30 PM; W 2:30 PM–3:30 PM; and by appointment.

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Tentative Schedule

January 13: General Introduction

John Charlot: “Classical Polynesian Thinking.” Eliot Deutsch and Ron Bontekoe (eds.): *A Companion to World Philosophies*, The Blackwell Companion to World Philosophies, Blackwell Publishers, Oxford, 1997, pp. 49-62. On Web site.

January 20–27: Polynesian Origin Traditions

Reading: Text packet.

“O le tupuga o le Eleele o Samoa ma tagata”

Kareda Henningsen: “Materials for the Study of the Chant `O LE SOLO O LE VA O LE FOAFOAGA O LE LALOLAGI”

J. Fraser: “Chaos and Strife. — A Solo”

J. Fraser: “The Samoan Story of Creation. — A `Tala”

“Vavau and his Family—A *Tala*.”

“About Po and Ao, A Pair of Chiefs—A *Tala*.”

K. P. Emory: “The Tahitian Account of Creation by Mare”

T. Henry: selections from *Ancient Tahiti*

John Charlot: “Aspects of Samoan Literature II: Genealogies, Multigenerational Complexes, and Texts on the Origin of the Universe,” *Anthropos*, Volume 86, 1991, pp. 127–150.

———“Four Society Islands Creation Texts,” *Journal de la Société des Océanistes*, Volume XLI, Number 81, December, 1985, pp. 169–184 (numerous typographical errors; see errata sheet).

———“Some Recent Publications of Mâori Texts,” *Pacific Studies*, Volume 18, Number 2, June 1995, pp. 139–149.

REL 663C SPRING 2010 2.

February 3: Hawaiian Origin Traditions.

Reading: Text packet.

Ka 'Ōlelo Kumu o kā Dāvida Malo Mo'olelo Hawai'i.

Edited by Kapali Lyon and Kale Langlas.

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W. Ellis: selections from *Polynesian Researches: Hawaii*

A. Fornander: selections from *Fornander Collection of Hawaiian Antiquities and Folk-Lore*, volume 6.

February 10: topic paragraph for semester paper.

February 10–March 17: *The Kumulipo*.

Martha Beckwith: *The Kumulipo*.

Liliuokalani of Hawaii: *An Account of the Creation of the World according to Hawaiian Tradition*.

John Charlot: "A Pattern in Three Hawaiian Chants," *Journal of American Folklore*, Volume 96, Number 379, January–March 1983, pp. 64–68.

March 3: outline and bibliography of semester paper.

March 31–April 28: Student Presentations.

May 5: semester paper due.

May 5: General Discussion

Reading:

Martha Beckwith: *The Kumulipo*.

Liliuokalani of Hawaii: *An Account of the Creation of the World according to Hawaiian Tradition*.

Reading packet. Photocopies are available at Professional Image, 2633 South King Street, across from Puck's Alley.

John Charlot articles on his Web site (please read errata sheets): www2.hawaii.edu/~charlot.

Students will write one twenty-five-page paper and present it to the seminar.

Paper Topics:

Students will write a paper or papers on a section of *The Kumulipo* not discussed in class or on another Hawaiian or Polynesian tradition of the origin of the universe. Comparative material from other areas may be used.

The following works are good starting points for your research.

Barrère, Dorothy B., 1969. *The Kumuhonua Legends: A Study of Late 19th Century Hawaiian Stories of Creation and Origins*, Pacific Anthropological Records Number 3. Honolulu: Bernice P. Bishop Museum.

Fornander, Abraham, 1916–1917. *Fornander Collection of Hawaiian Antiquities and Folk-Lore*, Memoirs of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum Volume 4. Honolulu: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. Pages 2–31.

Fornander, Abraham, 1919–1920. *Fornander Collection of Hawaiian Antiquities and Folk-Lore*, Memoirs of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum Volume 6. Honolulu: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. Pages 266–281, 335–337, 360–367.

He Pule Hoolaa Alii. He Kumulipo no Ka-I-i-mamao, a ia Alapai Wahine, 1889. Honolulu: Hui Pa`ipalapala Elele.
Kamakau, Samuel Mānaiakalani, 1991. *Nā Mo`olelo a ka Po`e Kahiko: Tales and Traditions of the People of Old*. Honolulu, Bishop Museum Press. Part 3.

Kepelino. Beckwith, Martha Warren (ed.), 1932. *Kepelino's Traditions of Hawaii*, Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 95. Honolulu: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

Kukahi, Joseph L., 1902. *Ke Kumulipo: He Moolelo Hawaii*, Volumes 1 and 2. Honolulu: Grieve Publishing Company.

Johnson, Rubellite Kawena, 1981. *Kumulipo: The Hawaiian Hymn of Creation*, Volume 1. Honolulu: Topgallant Publishing Co. [BL2620 .H3 J63 1981](#).

—2000. *The Kumulipo Mind: A Global Heritage*. Private printing. BL 2620 .H3 K83356 2000.

—2001. *Essays in Hawaiian Literature, Part 1, Origin Myths and Migration Traditions*. Private printing. GR 385 .H3 J64 2001.

Perkins, Leialoha Apo; Theodore Kelsey; Roland F. Perkins, 1991. *The Hawaiian Kumulipo: Myth and Poem*, Volume 1. *Journal of Hawaiian and Pacific Folklore and Folklife Studies*. GR380 .J695 v. 2.

Perkins, Leialoha Apo; Theodore Kelsey; Roland F. Perkins, 1991. *The Hawaiian Kumulipo: Myth and Poem*, Volume 2. *Journal of Hawaiian and Pacific Folklore and Folklife Studies*. GR380 .J695 v. 2.

Pukui, Mary Kawena, and Korn, Alfons L., 1973. *The Echo of Our Song: Chants & Poems of the Hawaiians*. Honolulu: The University Press of Hawaii. *Birth Chant for Kau-i-ke-ao-uli*, pages 12–28, 198–204.

Deadlines:

February 10: topic paragraph for semester paper.

March 3: outline and bibliography.

May 5: papers due.

Grading (plus/minus):

80% on the paper and presentation.

20% on class participation.

One unexcused absence will result in the deduction of half a grade.

According to departmental policy, incompletes will be given only for extraordinary reasons, such as health problems.

Student Learning Objectives: Students will analyse Hawaiian religious texts as a basis for discussing general ideas.

**REL 663C HAWAIIAN TRADITIONS OF THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE
TEXT PACKET**

SAMOA

“O le tala i le tupuga o Samoa”

“O le tupuga o le Eleele o Samoa ma tagata”

Kareda Henningsen: “Materials for the Study of the Chant `O LE SOLO O LE VA O LE FOAFOAGA O LE LALOLAGI”

J. Fraser: “Chaos and Strife. — A Solo”

J. Fraser: “The Samoan Story of Creation. — A `Tala”

“Vavau and his Family—A *Tala*.”

“About Po and Ao, A Pair of Chiefs—A *Tala*.”

SOCIETY ISLANDS

K. P. Emory: “The Tahitian Account of Creation by Mare”

T. Henry: selections from *Ancient Tahiti*

HAWAII

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