Polynesian Religions will be offered with an emphasis on Samoan texts. Works will be studied also from Tonga, the Society Islands, and New Zealand. Students will learn to interpret texts for their tendencies, ideas, and social and historical contexts. Texts will be presented in the original languages and in translation. Knowledge of a Polynesian language is not required.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**January 11–13: INTRODUCTION: Polynesian Religions**
John Charlot: “Geometry and Life in Samoan Art” (reprinted from *Samoa News*), Volume XIV, Number 7, January 1980, pp. 91 f.

**January 18–20: Short Samoan Texts**
Proverbs: packet sheet
Reports: “Ni’fola und Saumaeafe”
Stories: “O Sina ma lana Tuga”

**February 1: Topic paragraph due.**

**January 25–February 3: Samoan Traditions of the Origin of the Universe**
“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’.”
“The About of Po and Ao, A Pair of Chiefs—A ‘Tala’.”
February 8–10: Tongan Traditions of the Origin of the Universe
E. E. Collocott: “A Tongan Theogony”
P. Reiter: “Tongan Traditions”
V. Moniz: “A Tongan Theogony” and “Tongan Traditions Part 1”

February 22: Outline and bibliography due.

February 15–24: Society Islands Traditions of the Origin of the Universe
K. P. Emory: “The Tahitian Account of Creation by Mare”
T. Henry: selections from Ancient Tahiti

March 1: General Discussion.

March 3: Midterm take-home Examination, started in class. Two 2000-word essay questions: 1) the interpretation of a text, 2) a more general topic. Due at beginning of class on March 8.

March 8–10: Mâori Chants
McLean and Orbell: selections from Traditional Songs of the Maori

March 15–17: Polynesian Religion and Politics
Optional: O. Stuebel: “Der Kampf der Aitu von Upolu und Savaii”

March 22–24: Semester Break

March 29–31: Polynesian Religion and Christianity
L. Head: “The Gospel of Te Ua Haumene”
Michael Shirres: Tapu
Michael Shirres: This is Humanity This is Jesus This is God

April 5–28: Student Presentations
May 3: General Discussion
Final semester paper due.

Requirements:
Students will participate in class and write a take-home midterm, which will consist of two 1000-word essays: the interpretation of a text and the discussion of a general subject. Students will also write a ten-page semester paper on an approved topic.

Deadlines for semester paper:
February 1: One paragraph describing topic of semester paper.
February 22: Outline and bibliography.
May 3: Semester paper due.

Grading:
- 20% for each question on the midterm examination
- 50% for the semester paper and presentation
- 10% for class participation

Two unexcused absences will result in the loss of half a grade. Outside work and athletics are not valid excuses. Make-up for one absence is a five-page paper on an approved topic.

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

READING
The Polynesian Texts Packet can be bought at Professional Image, 2633 South King Street, across from Puck’s Alley. (UH Bookstore).

All John Charlot articles are on the Web site: www2.hawaii.edu/~charlot.


Student Learning Objectives: Students will analyse Polynesian religious texts as a basis for discussing general ideas.
February 22–24: Māori

March 1: General Discussion.

March 3: Midterm take-home Examination, started in class. Two 2000-word essay questions: 1) the interpretation of a text, 2) a more general topic. Due at beginning of class on March 8.

March 8–17: Polynesian Religion and Politics

March 22–24: Semester Break

March 29–April 7, first half: Polynesian Religion and Christianity

April 7, second half—28: Student Presentations

May 3: General Discussion
Final semester paper due.
POLYNESIAN TEXTS PACKET
REL 492 POLYNESIAN RELIGIONS
SPRING SEMESTER 2010

SAMOA

Samoan Proverbs
“Nifoloa und Saumaeafe”; “The Aitu Nifoloa,” “The Aitu Saumae’afe”
“O Sina ma lana Tuga”; “Sina and her Eel”
“O le Tala ia Taemâ ma Nafanua”
“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.”
John Fraser: “Some Folk-Songs and Myths from Samoa.”

TONGA

E. E. Collocott: “A Tongan Theogony”
P. Reiter: “Tongan Traditions”
V. Moniz: “A Tongan Theogony” and “Tongan Traditions Part 1”

SOCIETY ISLANDS

K. P. Emory: “The Tahitian Account of Creation by Mare”
T. Henry: selections from Ancient Tahiti

MĀORI

McLean and Orbell: selections from Traditional Songs of the Maori
Mohi Ruatapu: Ngā Kōrero a Mohi Ruatapu tohunga rongonui o Ngāti Porou
Ailsa Smith: Songs and Stories of Taranaki
Matiaha Tiramōrehu, Te Waiatatanga mai o te Atua
L. Head: “The Gospel of Te Ua Haumene”
Michael Shirres: Tapu
Michael Shirres: This is Humanity  This is Jesus  This is God

OTHER

K. P. Emory and T. Monberg: From the Two Canoes.
K. P. Emory: Kapingamarangi