

SPRING SEMESTER 2011
REL 492 POLYNESIAN RELIGIONS
TR 3:30–4:45 PM, SAKAMAKI B301

Instructor: John Charlot

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Office Hours: M and TR 12:00–1:00 PM; and by appointment.

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: "Nifoloa und Saumaeafe"

Stories: "O Sina ma lana Tuga"

John Charlot: Review of Even Hovdhaugen: *From the Land of Nāfanua: Samoan Oral Texts in Transcription and Translation, Notes and Vocabulary*, *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Volume 97, Number 2, June, 1988, pp. 205–208.

———"Some Uses of Chant in Samoan Prose," *Journal of American Folklore*, Volume 101, Number 401, July–September, 1988, pp. 302 - 311.

———"Aspects of Samoan Literature I: The Structure of the Samoan Single Story Form and Its Uses," *Anthropos*, Volume 85, 1990, pp. 415 - 430.

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*."

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

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.

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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*

John Charlot: "Four Society Islands Creation Texts," *Journal de la Société des Océanistes*, Volume XLI, Number 81, December, 1985, pp. 169–184 (including errata file).

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: Māori Chants

McLean and Orbell: selections from *Traditional Songs of the Maori*

John Charlot: "Some Recent Publications of Māori Texts," *Pacific Studies*, Volume 18, Number 2, June 1995, pp. 139–149.

March 15–17: Polynesian Religion and Politics

John Fraser, 1896. "Some Folk-Songs and Myths from Samoa." *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Volume 5, pp. 171–183.

John Charlot: "The War between the Gods of 'Upolu and Savai'i: A Samoan Story from 1890," *The Journal of Pacific History*, Volume 23, Number 1, April, 1988, pp. 80–85.

———"Towards a Dialogue Between Christianity and Polynesian Religions," *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses, Revue Canadienne/A Canadian Journal*, Volume 15, Number 4, 1986, pp. 443–450.

Optional: O. Stuebel: "Der Kampf der Aitu von Upolu und Savaii"

Optional: John Charlot: "The Influence of Polynesian Literature and Thought on Robert Louis Stevenson," *The Journal of Intercultural Studies*, Number 14, 1987, pp. 82–106.

John Charlot: "Aspects of Samoan Literature III: Texts on Historical Subjects and Bodies of Literature," *Anthropos*, Volume 87, 1992, pp. 33–48.

March 22–24: Semester Break

March 29–31: Polynesian Religion and Christianity

K. P. Emory and T. Monberg: *From the Two Canoes*, pp. 392–394.

L. Head: "The Gospel of Te Ua Haumene"

Michael Shirres: *Tapu*

Michael Shirres: *This is Humanity This is Jesus This is God*

John Charlot: "The Maori-Christian Theology of Michael Shirres," *The Journal of Intercultural Studies*, Number 33, 2006, pp. 18–27.

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.

Optional: Oskar Stuebel, *O Tu ma Tala Faasamoa mai le tusi a Oskar Stuebel 1896*, Samoa News Press, 1973. (Professional Image)

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

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REVISED SCHEDULE

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 I”

SOCIETY ISLANDS

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

T. Henry: selections from *Ancient Tahiti*

MÂORI

McLean and Orbell: selections from *Traditional Songs of the Maori*

Mohi Ruatapu: *Ngâ Kôrero a Mohi Ruatapu tohunga rongonui o Ngâti Porou*

Ailsa Smith: *Songs and Stories of Taranaki*

Matiaha Tiramôrehu, *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*