HWST 273  Tattoo Traditions of Polynesia
Spring 2018  (CRN: 61236)  3 credits
Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:15  Hale A’o 107

INSTRUCTOR:  Tricia Allen
OFFICE:  Hale A’o 105
OFFICE HOURS:  Tues/Thurs 11:00-11:30 or by appointment
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WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT
Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career
development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich
their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an overview of the traditional tattoo practices of the various Polynesian islands
within the context of the greater Pacific. The focus is primarily historic with the goal of providing the
students an understanding of the ancient practices within each of the individual Polynesian island groups.
The final weeks will be an overview of the revival of the practice and a discussion of controversial issues
surrounding the art. There will be no actual tattooing occurring in this course.

Activities will be required at times other than scheduled class times. Students are expected to visit a
minimum of one museum, library or archive (UHM Pacific/Hawaiian collection, the Hawai’i State Archives,
Bernice P. Bishop Museum Library and Archive, the Mission Houses Museum library and/or the Honolulu
Museum of Art) outside of scheduled class times in order to complete their research paper.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will get a brief overview and basic understanding of the migrations and peopling of the
   Pacific focusing on the ancestral connections between the Pacific peoples and continuity in the tattoo
   practices of Pacific cultures.

2. Students will learn the difference between primary and secondary source material and the significance
   of working off original documents whenever possible.

3. By the completion of the course, students will recognize the differences between the distinct tattoo
   styles of each of the primary Polynesian island groups and have some insight and understanding of what
   tattoos represented within their respective cultural contexts.

4. A five page (double spaced) referenced research paper will familiarize students with using primary
   source material held in special collections and museums on O'ahu.
COURSE CONTENT

Concepts or Topics

- Overview of Pacific migrations
- The development of distinct cultural traits within each of the Polynesian island groups.
- Tattoo and its role within the socio-political systems of the various island cultures.
- The techniques, materials utilized and tools specific to each island group.

Skills or Competencies

- Gaining an understanding of Polynesian prehistory and migrations.
- Identification of the stylistic distinctions of each of the major island groups tattoo traditions.
- Distinguishing between primary and secondary source material.
- Basic use of a specialized library or collection, such as the Pacific & Hawaiian Collection, Hamilton Library.

COURSE TASKS AND GRADING

Grading is on a point system based on a total of 400 possible points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary 5 points, annotated bib. 15 points, rough draft 25 points, final draft 35 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forums/Google Docs discussions</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three quizzes, 40 points each</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group project</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Several options for earning extra credit will be announced in class.

LEARNING RESOURCES

The majority of your required reading materials are available for purchase in a course reader at the bookstore. Additional required readings and videos are posted in Laulima Modules. Books and videos will be placed on hold in the library for additional reading. Some independent reading and library/archival research will be required. In addition, you will need to purchase a basic composition book at either the Bookstore, Long’s Drugs or anywhere that sells school supplies.

Students are expected to check their UH email account for updates and announcements on a regular basis. You are also expected to check your weekly assignments in Laulima Modules regularly. Any changes to our schedule will be announced via UH gmail and posted in Laulima.
COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and participation. Class time is most useful and enjoyable when good discussions take place, both in large and small groups. Thinking and being prepared do not constitute participation, although they certainly help. Please participate in discussions. Also, kindly turn off all cell phones. Texting is not allowed. Please be on time to avoid disrupting others. Repeated tardiness may lower your attendance grade.

Make-up work. Tests cannot be made up except in the case of documented emergencies. Work submitted after the due date will be accepted, however, 10% of your grade for the assignment will be deducted for each week that you are late. Late assignments will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

Writing. Developing good writing skills (grammar, spelling, organization, expression) is an important outcome of not only this course, but your college experience in general. If you are not confident in your writing ability, please obtain feedback on your work before turning it in. I encourage you to utilize The Writing Center and its resources, as well as the expertise of library staff. I am available to assist with writing and language issues. Plagiarism will earn in zero points on the assignment and may be subject to College disciplinary procedures.

Quizzes & final exam. All quizzes are in Laulima and can be taken either on your home computer or at the testing center or the computer labs on campus. Quizzes will be brief and consist of multiple choice, short answers, and identification of individual island styles drawing upon reading material, lectures and films. The quizzes will be accessible for approximately a 48 hour period and are open-book so you may use your notes and reader. You may take each quiz only once, but there is no time limit.

Forums/Google Docs discussion boards. This assignment will aid you in identifying significant themes in your readings and be advantageous in the quizzes and exams since they are open resources. Each week you’ll find specific topics or questions for the upcoming readings. We’ll use either Laulima Forums or Google Docs for discussions, pending which format students prefer. You’re expected to contribute to these weekly discussion boards.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes in topics and assignments will be posted and updated in Laulima. Please check both Laulima and your UH email on a regular basis. Laulima can be easily updated and allows for a more in-depth summary of assignments. Please rely on Laulima for your weekly assignments.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS AND THE PACIFIC CONTEXT

Week 1: 1/09, 1/11 The geography, physical environment of the Pacific.
   The prehistory and peopling of the Pacific, the development of distinct cultural traits within each of the primary Polynesian groups.
   Reading assignments for the first week are posted in Laulima.

Week 2: 1/16, 1/18 Polynesian concepts related to tattoo: kapu/noa, ao/po, etc.
   Gender distinctions in tattoo practices—an overview.
   Accuracy in early historic sources, primary vs. secondary sources.
EARLY TATTOO PRACTICES IN POLYNESIA

Week 3: 1/23, 1/25 Introduction to Samoan tattoo
Discussion of research papers

Week 4: 1/30, 2/01 Samoan tattoo continued, Fijian and Tongan tattoo
Additional required reading posted in Laulima.

Week 5: 2/06, 2/08 The Polynesian Outliers: Tikopia, Rennell, Bellona, Ontong Java
Additional required reading posted in Laulima.
Quiz #2 (review on the 8th)

Week 6: 2/13, 2/15 The Cook Islands
Introduction to Tahiti and the Society Islands
Summary of proposed research paper due!

Week 7: 2/20, 2/22 The Society Islands, the Tuamotus and Mangareva
Additional reading materials online at Laulima.

Week 8: 2/27, 3/01 The Marquesas

Week 9: 3/06, 3/08 Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Aotearoa (New Zealand)
Annotated bibliography for your research papers is due!

Week 10: 3/13, 3/15 Hawai‘i

Week 11: 3/20, 3/22 Introduction to the revival
Quiz #3 (review on the 22nd)
Rough draft of your research papers is due!

3/27, 3/29 SPRING RECESS Boost your grade! Do some extra credit!

THE POLYNESIAN TATTOO TODAY

Week 12: 4/03, 4/05 The revival in Samoa
Film: O Le Tatau: What One Must Do

Week 13: 4/10, 4/12 The revival in Tonga, Fiji, Aotearoa

Week 14: 4/17 The Tahitian and Marquesan Revivals
4/19 The revival in Hawai‘i
Your research papers are due!

Week 15: 4/24, 4/26 Ethical issues
Commodification & Commercialization

Week 16: 5/01 Review for final exam

FINAL EXAM Your final exam is in Laulima and must be completed by 11:59pm May 8th.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in the course. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ʻAkoakoa 213 for more information.