PACS 108: Pacific Worlds: An Introduction to Pacific Islands Studies  
CRN: 62296  Online  3 Credits  
Spring 2018

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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.

Catalog Description

This course situates introduces students to the geography, societies, histories, cultures, and arts of Oceania, including Hawai‘i. Combines lecture and discussion that emphasize Pacific Islander perspectives and experiences.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Locate and name the island groups, geographic regions, and political entities of Oceania.
2. Describe social and cultural similarities and differences among Pacific Island societies.
3. Identify themes in the works of Pacific Island artists and writers.
4. Discuss contemporary social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues in the Pacific Islands.
5. Explain significant themes in indigenous, colonial, and postcolonial histories of the Pacific Islands.

Content and Competencies  This course is organized in six parts:

**Concepts or Topics**

I. Boarding the Wa’a: Navigating and Mapping Oceania  
II. Routes and Roots: Oceanic Origins and Traditions  
III. Waves of Power: Religion, Colonialism and Development  
IV. Countercurrents: Contemporary Pacific Cultures  
V. Niu Waves: Oceanic Arts and Literature  
VI. Pacific Worlds: Arriving on Distant Shores

**Skills or Competencies**

1. Identify features of the basic geography and demography of the Pacific Islands;  
2. Describe the prehistory, migration routes, and theories of settlement of the Pacific;  
3. Describe basic ecological, political, cultural, and social effects of contact on each region;  
4. Critically discuss issues about popular representations of the Pacific.  
5. Display the intellectual rigor associated with Pacific Studies through formal presentations, informal discussions, literary works, and/or artistic expressions, and discuss real life applications to Pacific Studies.  
6. Locate and utilize a range of local, regional, and international resources for research on the Pacific region.
General Notes

1. Online courses require a fair amount of computer competency as well as self-motivation. You should be familiar with the UH Laulima interface as well as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. If you are not terribly competent on a computer, this course probably isn’t for you. Consider taking this course face-to-face instead.

2. You are responsible to checking this syllabus, Laulima and your UH e-mail to stay abreast of assignments, due dates and such. Our weekly schedule and a brief summary of topics and a listing of assignments and additional course materials are posted in Laulima. Please browse through our Laulima course page. You’ll find details on all of your assignments. In the unit summaries in the left hand column of the Laulima homepage Weekly assignments are due Sunday nights at 11:59PM.

3. Community is a critical aspect of island life and we will carry this over into our course. You will be assigned to a wa’a or canoe by week 5. Many of the discussions throughout the semester will take place within your wa’a. As in any successful community or canoe, all members must contribute. Online discussions are mandatory and will occur in Laulima Forums. Specific topics and our week by week schedule of assignments are posted in Laulima organized into 6 units.

Course Tasks and Grading

Grading Breakdown:
- Forum discussions: 150 points (37.5%)
- Map quiz: 15 points (3.75%)
- Concept assessments (5 x 15 points each): 75 points (18.75%)
- Poster project: 70 points (17.5%)
- Midterm: 40 points (10%)
- Final exam: 50 points (12.5%)

All assignments and deadlines will be explained in detail and posted in Laulima.

Participation

All our class discussions will take place in Laulima Forums, which you will find in the left-hand column once you select the PACS108 tab in Laulima. If you are new to Laulima, you’ll find instructions on how to post by clicking on Unit 1 Week by week lessons. Your entries and comments for each week are due by midnight on Sunday. I’ll be doing the grading and making final comments every Monday for the previous week. Check back after Monday for my comments and feedback. You can check your grade in Laulima Gradebook. There are no extensions on deadlines for class/group discussions, however you are encouraged to continue conversations if you desire to do so.

Deadlines: As stated above, the deadline for all Forum discussions is Sunday midnight. All other deadlines and assignments are posted in Laulima. Remember it’s your responsibility to check both your UH email and Laulima to stay abreast of assignments. Late work will be accepted for individual assignments (no extensions on deadlines for Forum discussions) however, 10% will be deducted for each week that you are late. In the case of a documented medical or family emergency, email me and we will handle it on a case-by-case basis.
Concept Assessments: These are assignments with a set group of questions on various topics. You will find the assignments in Laulima Resources. Due dates are posted in your week by week lessons. You will be submitting them in Laulima Assignments. Please create your document in a word processing program, ideally Microsoft Word, then cut & paste into the dialog box in Laulima. Save your document on your computer as well so that you have a back up and easy access to it when taking the exams. Yes, the exams are open-resource.

Poster Project: This is a fun project that you’ll be working on throughout the semester. It allows you to research a topic that is of personal interest to you. Detailed instructions are provided in Laulima Resources as well as samples of previous student projects.

Exams: Both your midterm and final exam are in Laulima. They are short answer, multiple choice and true/false questions. These are open-book (or note) exams and can be done on your computer at home or at the computer labs on campus. You can use any resources that you like. Test dates are posted in your week by week lessons in Laulima.

Extra Credit: Several optional extra credit assignments will be given throughout the semester and are listed in your weekly lessons in Laulima. In addition, there are several films you can watch on your own and get up to 5 extra credit points for completing a written assignment. Details will be posted in Laulima Assignments.

Facebook: I set up a Facebook page for each of my courses. It is under PACS108 Windward. It would be beneficial your to follow this page, although it is not required.

Course Resources

You will find all of your assignments in Laulima Resources filed by week. Reading assignments, web links and video links can be found there.

In addition, there are many other excellent sites that you can browse to broaden your understanding of the Pacific. These may also be utilized for extra credit assignments.

Sheppard Software Learning Games: http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Oceania_Geography.htm Here is an easy, fun way to familiarize yourself with the geography of the Pacific. The interactive Oceania map will also serve as an excellent study tool for our map quiz.

The Pacific Islands Report: http://pjidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport Daily news stories, extensive links to other sites and resources, as well as a searchable archive.

Radio Australia, Pacific Beat: http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/programsaz This program brings interviews with Pacific Island leaders, newsmakers and Pacific Islanders.

Pacific Collection: http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/pacific/ The Pacific Collection website at the University of Hawai‘i library has a variety of resources that will be useful for this class, especially the “Links to Pacific-related websites” (in particular the news & statistical source links), and the Digital Collections links.

Art Pacific: http://www.art-pacific.com/artifacts/nuguinea/mapmelan.htm This is a site that was created and is maintained by private collectors with a genuine interest in the cultures of Melanesia.

Easter Island Foundation: http://islandheritage.org/wordpress/ The EIF (Easter Island Foundation) is a great resource not only on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) but also on greater Pacific.
This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes in topics and assignments will be posted and updated in Laulima. Please check Laulima on a regular basis. Laulima can be easily updated and allows for a more in-depth summary of your assignments. Please rely on Laulima for your weekly assignments.

Unit I: Boarding the Waka – Navigating and Mapping Oceania
Discusses how the Pacific was named, mapped, and constructed by the West. Explores the ways in which modern studies have characterized the region. The discussion here will engage both pre-contact and contemporary cultural worldviews and practices, emphasizing the continuity of culture.

Week 1, Jan. 9 - 15: Introduction to the Pacific
Reading: Teaiwa, The Classroom as a Metaphorical Canoe
Video assignment: Sacred Vessels (2 parts) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7nXev2Jt7g and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahpVuw57uwY

Week 2, Jan 16 - 22: Creation and Origin Legends
Reading, Matsuda, Civilization Without a Center
Reading on Aboriginal oral Tradition: http://goo.gl/kvRErb
Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6qBE1aQjY
Reading on “race”: http://www.newsweek.com/there-no-such-thing-race-283123

Week 3, Jan 23 - 29: Mapping and Naming the Pacific
Reading assignment: d’Urville, Islands of the Great Ocean
Reading assignment: Hau’ofa, E. Our Sea of Islands
Reading assignment: Intro. to Geology of the Pacific
PowerPoint Presentation in Resources

Unit II: Routes & Roots – Oceanic Origins and Traditions
Explores the various migration theories and discusses the archaeological evidence which points to the origins and initial migrations of Pacific islanders. Scientifically, we can explain the origins of islands in terms of volcanism, plate tectonics, reef building, and other physical forces. Similarly, we can trace the estimated migrations and arrivals of Pacific Islanders using archaeological and linguistic evidence. While these approaches to knowledge are valid and important, they tell us little about how cultures understand themselves, and cultural self-definition are rooted in the most primal of stories: those concerning the birth of the islands and the origins of their peoples.

Week 4, Jan 30 – Feb 5: Archaeological Evidence of Origins
Reading: Ridgell, Migration
Reading assignment: Finney, The Pacific Basin: An Introduction
PowerPoint Presentation in Resources – have your sound on!
Your summary of your proposed poster project is due! This is brief, 2-3 sentences
Your first concept assessment (on prehistory & migration) is due!

Week 5, Feb 6 - 12: DNA studies of Pacific Prehistory
Video assignment with Dr. Lum, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWFzPh-qvI8
Video assignment: Made in Taiwan, see instructions in Laulima Weekly Lessons
Your second concept assessment (on Dr. Lum’s talk) is due!
Study for your map quiz, there are fun tools & map games in Resources

Week 6, Feb 13 - 19: Indigenous Views and Experience of Voyaging
Online reading assignment: Andrade:
http://www.pacificworlds.com/homepage/education/essays/essay1.cfm
and chose ONE article from this website: http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/
A draft of your annotated bibliography is due!
Take your Map Quiz is due by Sunday midnight!
Unit III: Waves of Power – Christianity, Colonialism & Development
Explores the early contact period, usually up through the end of the 19th century. Describes the violence of colonialism. Explores the cultural, political, and discursive domination of colonialism in the Pacific. Discusses how colonialism has impacted issues of class, race, and gender in the Pacific and examines the impetus for and history of decolonization in the Pacific. While it is not feasible to adequately cover every island nation, we will include discussions of Guam, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Fiji, Rapa Nui and Hawai‘i.

Week 7, Feb 20 - 26: The Arrival of the Newcomers.
Reading assignment: Daws, Looking at Islanders
Reading assignment: Campbell, The Age of European Discovery
Revised draft of your annotated bibliography is due!

Week 8, Feb 27 – Mar 5: The 19th Century. Blackbirders
Reading assignments on Blackbirding
Reading assignment: Campbell, Polynesia: Trade and Social Change
Your 3rd concept assessment (on Blackbirding) is due!
Complete your MIDTERM EXAM by Sunday night!

Week 9, Mar 6 - 12: Wartime and the Nuclear Pacific
Reading assignment, Starfish Prime
Video Assignment: Nuclear Savage, see Laulima Weekly Lessons or Resources for link
Case studies: Guam, the Marshall Islands
Your concept assessment (#4) on the Nuclear Pacific is due!

Unit IV: Countercurrents—Contemporary Pacific Cultures
This section brings us to the present and future and describes the fluidity of Oceanic cultural identities. We explore the internal and external forces calling for development in Oceania including migration and globalization and considers the questions: What are the positive and negative social, cultural, and environmental impacts of development in the Pacific? What does “globalization” mean in the Pacific region?

Week 10, Mar 13 – 19: Mining in the Pacific
Reading assignment, chose either mine and read ALL the links on your chosen mine
Wa’a projects and presentations
Your 5th concept assessment (on mining) is due
Rough draft of the written portion of your poster project due! Use the Writing Center FIRST!

Week 11, Mar 20 - 26: Assistance Programs and Intervention, Globalization
Video: Samoa disaster relief
Reading assignment, Globalization, read highlighted areas only
Hypothetical assistance program

PART V: Niu Waves – Oceanic Art & Literature
This Unit looks at the relatively recent development of Pacific Arts and Literature. What are some of the ways in which Pacific Islanders express themselves today? We will consider how Pacific music and dance has been transformed by tourism, by the stage, and in the diaspora. We also consider how Pacific Islanders have been represented in film and art, and how this contrasts with the ways in which island artists represent themselves. This voyage into Pacific expression asks how tradition is being extended creatively in visual art form and literary content today.

Week 12, Mar 27 – Apr 2: Tourist Art & Markets, Arts Festivals
Reading assignment: Mallon, Tourist Art and its Markets
Hypothetical Assistance program assignment due

SPRING BREAK! No assignments due this week, but BOOST YOUR GRADE! DO SOME EXTRA CREDIT!

Week 13, Apr 10 - 16: Contemporary Pacific Arts
Reading assignments: Semu and Kihara
Final poster projects due
PART VI: Pacific Worlds – Arriving on Distant Shores
We conclude the semester with a celebration of indigenous writings, arts, and education. Islanders today are steering their own canoe and once again at the helm.

Week 14, Apr 17-23: Hau‘ofa, The Ocean in Us
Read & discuss your classmates poster projects!

Week 15, Apr 24 – 30: assignments in Laulima
REVIEW!

Remember to take your final exam before Sunday May 9th at midnight!

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 this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.