

SOC 721: Social Change in the Pacific Islands

Instructor: Prof. Lisa Uperesa

Thursdays 12-2:30

244 Saunders

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OH Mondays 2-3:30 and by appt.

Course Description

Inquiries into the history, nature, process, and legacies of social change have been central to the discipline of sociology and recent studies of the Pacific. In this course, we will take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding contemporary challenges for Pacific societies, incorporating sociological, historical, anthropological, and political science sources. Following the key themes of colonial legacies, globalization, and transnationalism; the movement of people and commodities; articulations of popular culture and practice; and sovereignty, power, and movements toward indigenous resurgence; we will examine contemporary challenges and potential futures of the Pacific.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate their ability to employ critical concepts, theories, and methodologies in the study of social transformation of the Pacific.
2. Demonstrate their understanding of histories of particular Pacific Island areas and their relationship to global and regional politics, economies, and mobility.
3. Demonstrate their ability to carry out an independent research project.
4. Demonstrate their ability to analyze and write clearly and effectively for a professional audience.
5. Demonstrate their ability to present research findings clearly and effectively in a professional setting, such as a classroom or academic conference.

Accommodations and Academic Support

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you and with the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

If you are having other difficulty and are in need of counseling support, please contact the UHM Counseling center at (808) 956-7927 or <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/counseling/>.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to know and follow the University of Hawai'i Systemwide Student Conduct Code, particularly sections on proscribed conduct (http://studentaffairs.manoa.Hawai'i.edu/policies/conduct_code/system_scc.php). Plagiarism is a serious violation of the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code. In it, plagiarism is defined as follows: "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms" (University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992: 6)). **Anyone who plagiarizes another's work will fail the course.**

Grading and Course Assignments

The final grade for the course will be based 50% on attendance and participation (including weekly reflection pieces) and 50% on the final paper. The weekly reflection pieces are 1-2 pages single spaced critical reflection on the week's readings. They should be submitted by Wednesday night before the session meets.

For the final paper, students are encouraged to develop chapters of their theses, dissertations, or conference papers that will be presented.

Final Guidelines Regarding Course Assignments:

This course assumes that we are all adult learners in a collaborative learning environment. We ask each other to respect and be accountable to the objectives, activities, and assignments established for this course, and by doing so we also ask each other to respect the 'spirit' of being collaborative learners in this venture. We may mutually decide to change guidelines or deadlines for the assignments, but the final determination is made by the instructor.

Required Texts

All articles will be posted on the course Lualima site.

Besnier, Niko. 2011. *On the Edge of the Global: Modern Anxieties in a Pacific Island Nation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Goodyear-Kaopua, Noelani, Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright, and Ikaika Hussey, eds. 2014. *A Nation Rising: Hawaiian Movements for Life, Land, and Sovereignty*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. (Available as an e-book through UHM Voyager)

Kahn, Miriam. 2011. *Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place and Everyday Life*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. (Available as an e-book through UHM Voyager)

MacPherson, Cluny and La'avasa. 2010. *The Warm Winds of Change: Globalisation in Contemporary Samoa*. Auckland: Auckland University Press. (Available as an e-book through UHM Voyager)

Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. 2012. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (Second Edition). New York: Zed Books. (Available as an e-book through UHM Voyager)

Teaiwa, Katerina. 2014, *Consuming Ocean Island: Stories of People and Phosphate from Banaba*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (Available as an e-book through UHM Voyager)

West, Paige. 2012. *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive: The Social World of Coffee from Papua New Guinea*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.