

ES 392: Change in the Pacific - Polynesia

Fall 2016

301B George Hall M/W 10:30-11:45

A Note from the Professor

Aloha and Afiio Mai!

Welcome to ES 392. Here you'll find the basics about the course: description, learning outcomes, policies, and an overview of assignments. Our course schedule on our [Laulima](#) page lists the weekly readings and assignments. Be sure to refer to our online syllabus early and often – if you ever need to know what to read before class or what's due, it's all there.

About me: I am jointly appointed in Sociology and Ethnic Studies and I teach a variety of courses on race, ethnicity, migration, sport, and the Pacific. If you have questions or just want to talk about ideas, etc. you are always welcome to come to office hours (see below). Outside of office hours, e-mail is the best way to get a hold of me. (On class days you can usually find me in one of my two offices.) Looking forward to a great semester!

-- Professor Uperesa

Instructor Contact Information

Professor Lisa Uperesa

E-mail: faanofo@hawaii.edu

Office Hours: M 2-3:30pm (304 George)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores narratives and representations arising from Oceania, specifically deconstructing colonial discourses of the Pacific and Polynesia and examining new articulations of place, politics, and identity. How has Polynesia been produced as a place, and to what effects? How do we come to know the past? How do theories of *tā* and *vā* ground us in shifting landscapes and waterscapes, relationships to one another, and to the sacred? In what ways do our shared pasts of colonial legacies shape the present? With reference to particular islands, we will explore histories of movement, contact and colonial intervention, and conditions of political marginality and resurgence on the world stage. We will critically analyze ideologies and experiences arising from cultural contact and exchange, changing social and cultural values and practices, and examine the stakes and content of new cultural productions with a focus on sport, film, television, and art and performance.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will:

1. Be familiar with and be able to employ critical concepts, theories, and methodologies in the study of social transformation of the Pacific, with a focus on "Polynesia."
2. Demonstrate understanding of histories of particular island areas and their relationship to global politics, economies, and social movement.
3. Demonstrate the ability to make explicit connections between race, ethnicity, and indigeneity and other areas of social life.
4. Demonstrate critical analysis skills through written and oral communication.

This course fulfills the UHM Oral Communication (O) Focus requirement. Oral communication assignments and training are fully integrated into the main course activities and will constitute at least 40% of the final grade. Students will receive explicit training in oral communication, and will receive feedback on oral communication activities and assignments on an individual basis.

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COURSE POLICIES

The course will feature writing activities, small and large group discussion, guest lecturers, and film selections. There will be a lot of reading and writing.

Students are expected to attend class **having read** the assigned material, and to participate in class discussions.

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

When approaching written and oral assignments, students should evaluate their sources carefully for credibility and provide citations for all sources they use. Wikipedia should be used only as a guide or point of reference **never** as an academic citation. For guidelines on what constitutes credible citations please refer to an M.L.A. handbook. When using direct quotations or paraphrasing (restating in your own words) an author's idea or argument, always cite the author, text, and page number.

Plagiarism is a serious offense, which can result not only in automatic failure of this course, but also university disciplinary action. Any acts of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs. Please refer to the university website for more details on plagiarism: (http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/system_scc.php). **Anyone who plagiarizes another's work will fail the course.**

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Although it is difficult, you must be able to unplug yourself from your phone, texting, Instagram, Facebook, chat, and internet surfing for the duration of our class time. Turn off all electronic devices while we are in class together (I know, 75 minutes is a loooooong time but you can do it!). Respect your fellow classmates and your professor by being present.

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

The instructor's responsibility is to provide a range of learning opportunities that will enhance understanding and mastery of the student learning objectives outlined for this course; it is up to the student to take advantage of all learning opportunities, to keep up to date on readings and assignments via the Lulima syllabus, to communicate with the instructor if s/he is having difficulty, and to give feedback on course components and design.

All instructions for assignments will be given as handouts in class and posted on the course Lulima website. As assignments will be given far in advance, extensions will be permitted in only the most extreme circumstances. Late papers or projects will be penalized a half a grade per day past the due date. Assignment descriptions are listed on the next page.

Attendance & Participation	60 points
Current Event Presentation	15 points
Group Film/Media Review	60 points
Papers	90 points
<u>Final Project & Presentation</u>	<u>75 points</u>
TOTAL	300 points
*Extra Credit (up to 10 points)	

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

Books are available for order online at Amazon.com. All books will also be available on reserve at the library.

Figiel, Sia. 2015. Free Love. Honolulu: Loihi Press.

Kahn, Miriam. 2011. Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place, and Everyday Life. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Wendt, Albert. 1999. Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree and Other Stories. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

All other readings are listed online in Lulima/Resources/Readings. **PRINT and BRING YOUR READINGS TO CLASS.** See the course Lulima website for the class schedule. Unless otherwise noted, the assigned readings are required.

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and Participation (60 pts)

Students who attend class, come prepared, and participate in discussion will do well in this course. As this is a course that meets the Oral Focus requirements, classroom participation and active discussion are essential to student learning. Our aim is to create a community of learners that will share, exchange, and help each other. Students will be graded on participation every week; thoughtful and consistent participation will earn full credit.

Current Event Presentation (15 pts)

Students will choose current events that address some aspect of change in Polynesia. Current events analyses will be modelled in class.

Group Film/Media Review (60 pts)

In small groups, students will select a film or television series to view and analyze, drawing on course readings, supplementary resources, or outside research. These analyses will be presented to the class. Reviews will be graded on quality of analysis and presentation. Students will engage in peer review and also receive feedback from the instructor.

Papers (60 pts)

There will be four short papers (3 pages each) over the course of the semester, and each will be aimed at giving students the opportunity to synthesize learning from different sections of the course. These will be focused analytical papers. The lowest grade of the four papers will be dropped. Prompts for each paper will be given in class.

Final Project & Presentation (100 pts)

In the second half of the semester and in pairs or individually, students will select and develop original research projects or creative media projects. Final projects will explore some aspect of social change in the area we call Polynesia. The projects will model the research process (topic, preliminary research, background research, outlining, and analysis) and will culminate in an annotated final presentation. The presentations may include artwork, video, performance, etc., at the student's discretion. These projects will be presented to the class. Students will receive individualized guidance and feedback on these projects, as well as engage in peer review.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities to earn extra credit over the course of the semester, up to 10 points.