READINGS: Readings have been placed in digital format on Laulima. All should be read prior to the class for which they are assigned.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a general survey of the peoples and cultures found in Polynesia. Course topics will include geography, environment, prehistory, history, traditional cultures, and contemporary island societies. We will explore both the “traditional” as well as the “contemporary”, within foundation anthropological themes of political systems to more novel themes of sports. It is through these various thematic and theoretical ideas that we seek to learn something about the human condition.

This subject matter falls within the discipline of anthropology, which is a comparative and holistic approach to the study of humanity. That is, anthropologists are interested in humans in their totality: as biological and social beings, past and present, in our society and in societies vastly different. The societies and cultures of the Pacific islands have long been critical areas for anthropological study, including the development of anthropological theory. The comparative isolation of islands, along with their small size and distinct environmental boundaries, makes them the closest thing we have to model systems for the study of humans.

The course format is lecture/seminar, with occasional films and slide presentations to illustrate important topics. An occasional guest lecture may take place to provide differing perspectives or particular expertise. Questions and class discussion are encouraged.

COURSE GOALS: In the broadest terms, anthropologists seek to understand ourselves by understanding the ways in which people, over space and time, are similar and the ways in which they are different. From this understanding, better-informed decisions can be made about ourselves and others. More specifically for this course, there are four primary goals: (1) to convey to students an understanding of the social and cultural patterns that developed in one region of the world—Polynesia; (2) to provide students with an appreciation for the differences and similarities of human adaptations to their environments in that region of the world; (3) the promotion of cross-cultural and international understanding through an awareness of other societies and cultures; and (4) the advancement of knowledge about the human condition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two written exams will be given over course readings (1,500 words each), lecture material, films and slides, guest lectures, and any other assigned materials. Weekly readings (500 words each) will be summarized by a student in both oral and written form, each student presenting once during the semester, before each lecture. In addition, students must write and present a term paper on a subject covered in the course. Papers will be 2500-3000
words and presentations 10-15 minutes for undergraduates and 5000 words and 15-20 minute presentations for graduates. A handout on term-paper guidelines will be distributed later in the course, and a rough draft is due in the 11th week of the semester.

Make-up exams will be given at the instructor's discretion--that is, only if circumstances are extraordinary. If a make-up exam is given, it must be taken within one week of the exam date unless circumstances warrant an extension. Students are expected to come to class and will find it very difficult to do well on exams if they have spotty attendance.

**Feedback.** Following assessment of assignments, feedback will be provided to each student approximately one to two weeks after submission of the assignment. In most cases, this will include written feedback on the original assignments submitted to the instructor. However, oral feedback will be provided, through an individual meeting with the instructor, following the submission of a draft of the final essay. It is important to ensure that comments provided by the instructor are taken into consideration in future written assignments. It is through this process that students become better writers.

**Grade scales:**
Exams 25% each; Draft/Paper/Presentation 40%; Readings Summaries 10%.
A- 90% and above
B- 80-89%
C- 68-79%
D- 56-67%
F- 55 and below

**EXPECTATIONS**
In taking this class, we enter a contract to treat each other with professional respect. This means arriving to class on time, attending class regularly, and turning in assignments by their due dates. The course will follow the schedule in this syllabus; changes to the syllabus will involve advance notice. If you have any concerns, please talk to the instructor or teaching assistant as far in advance as possible to alleviate any problems down the road.

Finally, as members of the University of Hawai‘i academic community, we must uphold certain standards of conduct. Note that the University of Hawai‘i regards acts of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. Students caught using another student’s work as their own or copying and submitting text without acknowledging the source are plagiarizing. Plagiarism is a serious breach of the contract between students and teachers. If I find that you have willfully plagiarized someone else’s words (or ideas), I will fail you for the course. The university will enforce the Policy on Academic Integrity according to the University of Hawaii’s Code of Conduct [http://www.studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/system_scc.php](http://www.studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/system_scc.php)

If you have any questions about how to best avoid plagiarism, please discuss these with me or your teaching assistant. Most problems with plagiarism result from the student not fully understanding that when they use someone else’s material it must be adequately cited.
Polynesian Cultures

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the KOKUA Program at 956-7511, Queen Lili‘uokalani Center 013. After signing up with KOKUA, the student may or may not additionally choose to identify herself or himself to the instructor.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE: A course reading schedule is presented below. This is a tentative schedule and may be subject to modification as the course progresses. Please have the readings completed before coming to class; it will be of great help in understanding the course material. Graduates students are required to read another book, chosen in consultation in the instructor, in conjunction with the below listed readings. Lectures and discussions on any given day may vary considerably from the designated reading topic. Activities in the classroom are not replications of reading material but separate sources of information. Students should be able to use material they have read to better understand content discussed in the classroom.

You will find it very helpful to review your notes frequently. If you have any questions about the readings or lecture information please ask; either raise your questions in class or come to see me during my office hours. It is your responsibility to let me know if you do not understand something.

**Week 1 (August 24th-28th)**
Introduction—Syllabus and Course

Polynesia—Introduction to the Geography and Geology  

**Weeks 2 (Aug. 31st-Sep.4th)**
Anthropology in the Pacific  

General Cultural History  

**Week 3 (Sep. 7th-11th)**
General Cultural History  

**Week 4 (Sep. 14th-18th)**
Historic Contacts (Explorers and the Explored)  
Polynesian Cultures

Colonialism as a Process

Week 5 (Sep. 21st-25th)
Power, Politics, and Structure

Western political systems in Polynesia

Week 6 (Sep. 28th-Oct. 2nd)
Ritual and Ceremony

Contemporary Pacific religiosity

Week 7 (Oct. 5th-9th)
Identity and Gender

Family and Kinship

Week 8 (Oct. 12th-16th)
Space and Place: On Land and on Sea

The Sea and Cultural Construction
Polynesian Cultures

Week 9 (Oct. 19th-23rd)
Agricultural Economics (Test # 1 Due)

Modern Subsistence: Subsistence, Political, and Ritual

Week 10 (Oct. 26th-30th)
Climate and environmental change in the contemporary Pacific

Landscapes and Environmental Politics

Week 11 (Nov. 2nd-6th)
Art, Music, and Recreation

Sports and sporting culture in the modern Pacific
--Calabro, D.G. 2016. Once were warrior, now are rugby players? Control and agency in the historical trajectory of the Maori formulations of masculinity in Rugby. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 3-4:231-249.

Week 12 (Nov. 9th-13th)
Contemporary Pacific Exchange

Orientalism and the Anthropologist
Polynesian Cultures

Week 13 (Nov. 16th-20th)

Cultural Authenticity

Developing a Modern Identity

Week 14 (Nov. 23rd-27th)

Cultural Tourism (Test #2 Due)

Modern Pacific Diaspora

Week 15 (Nov. 30th-Dec. 4th)

Modern Pacific Health

The Future of Anthropology in the Pacific: Resistance

Week 16 (Dec. 7th-11th)

Paper Presentations, Papers Due and Review

Papers Due December 11th