



Papa Haipule Hawai'i

Hawaiian Religion & Storytelling (RE 450)

Kau Ha'ule Lau 2009 Kumu Keahi Renaud



Kieffer Hall, Office 6
Email: kumukeahi@gmail.com
Office hrs: By Arrangement/Appt
Tuesday /Thursday 12:30 pm to 1:50 pm

Hawaiian Religious Beliefs

"Ka pule a kau kaua nei e haipule ai i mua o kou alo"

The *Akua* prayer which thy servant prays before thee daily

Course syllabus

(As adopted by the Curriculum of Dr. John Keola Lake, Kumu/Prof)

Haipule – a continuous action of spiritual recognition of the creator during daily activities.

Description: Religion has, first of all, explanatory functions, it answers systematically the overall “why’ questions. Secondly, it has validating functions, such as sanctions by all basic institutions, values, goals, which counts as righteousness, as being important to personal conduct and to social order and continuity. Discussion of Hawaiian religious beliefs will establish a cultural foundation in which a clearer understanding of Hawaiian religious practices . It will introduce the student to historical, cultural and religious experiences and development of the Hawaiian society from pre-contact Hawai’i to the monarchy.

Course Objectives: Those who participate and successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. will have an understanding of culture, and cultural differences.
Understanding cultural values will bring a clear concept into Hawaiian’s relationship with religious beliefs.
2. Understand and explain the relation of the Universe
Wakea, Earth (*Honua*), God,*Akua*, Land, *‘aina* and Man *kanaka*
3. Will understand the various segments in chants *oli*, prayers, *pule*, and ritual /protocol *loina*



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4. Hawaiian theology: Gods & Humans. Have a clear understanding of the Hawaiian theological concepts of God(s) and Man (Kanaka)
5. Discuss Kapu (privilege and prohibition, Kanawai,(laws) and Mana (power and spiritual authority)
6. Know and understand the Hierarchy of Gods, Goddesses, aumakua, guardians, unihipili, spirits.
7. Understand Sacrifice and kingship (ali'i)
8. Recognize the various types and functions of each of temples
9. Understand the role of kinolau, multiple forms in dealing with religious beliefs and concepts.
10. Be able to understand the role and interaction of Religion and politics of Chiefs
11. Identify the role of rituals, ceremonies /Makahiki Festival

AREAS TO BE COVERED

Unit 1.

Concepts of Culture: natural and Cultural environments
(Values, Standards, Mores, Norms, Basic Needs, Communication, Arts, Folkways, Ecology, Technology, Conservation, Pollution)

Unit 2.

Definitions of Religions and Universality of Religion
Psychological and Sociological theories
Supernatural forces and beings
Intervention of Gods in Human affairs
Life after death
Religious practice

Unit 3.

Migrations: Origins and Settling patterns in Pacific, Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia
1500 B.C. Early Voyagers
1180 A.D. Long Voyages
Reasons for Voyaging
How they traveled, what they brought.



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Unit 4.

Na Ho'okele : (navigators) Na Honua I Ho'ea 'ia (Lands Settled)

Language is cultural identity

"Ha" (Life force) in Honua (Universe & World)

Unit 5.

Genealogical framework of Hawaiian chiefs

Understanding the Cosmogonic Beginning

The Kumulipo, chant of Creation

Heroic Period – great voyages and Navigators

Settlement Period – Establishing and expanding land base.

- stronger religious base

- Kapu & Kanawai

Dynasty period: Chiefdoms and expansion

Unit 6.

Genealogy and Oral Traditions

Deification and memory-base- pre-history or written record

Power of memory – A'apo, basis of oratory

Profile of Hawaiian chants, Lyric and Literature of Hawai'i

Unit 7.

Rituals and Ceremonies

Life cycle of Ke Kanaka, man

Sacred sites and places

The Kahuna and the priesthood

Rituals and ceremonies

Hale Wanana, Halau Hula and Halau Lua, schools

Course Requirements:

Final Course Grades will be based on approx. equal weighting of

- (a) Regular Attendance / Commitment to Participation / Extra Credit

- (b) Periodic Quizzes (announced / unannounced)

- (c) Midterm Exam

- (d) Final Exam