

Chaminade University
Early History, Politics, and Culture of the Pacific Islands: HI-452-01

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Class time: 2:30-5:00PM, Thursdays
Office hours: 5:00-5:30PM, Thursdays

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Classroom: Henry Hall 227

Teaching philosophy:

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.
--Ancient Chinese Proverb

Course description: This course will allow students to explore the early histories, politics, and cultures of the Pacific Islands. Students will hone their ability to analyze and explain historical patterns in a variety of island cultures.

Course objectives:

Students will learn to identify and compare the origins of government, culture, economic systems, and social structures throughout the Pacific Islands.

Textbook: In lieu of a textbook, students will be required to pay for their entry fees to a variety of historical and cultural events.

Grading scale:

100%-90%=A 89%-80%=B 79%-70%=C 69%-60%=D 59% and below=F

Assignments:

Weekly research essay/presentation on assigned topic	40%
Three mandatory field trips	30%
One major research paper/presentation	20%
Attendance and participation	10%

Extra credit: 1 point on final average per presentation. 3 points max.

Extra credit can be earned only if all assignments have been completed.

Share up to three current events about your island group.

Bring the article to class. It should be no older than a month.

No more than 1 per student per class.

Provide a 3-5 minute highly structured presentation for the class. Handouts are welcome.

Class participation and attendance:

Students are expected to actively participate in class activities and discussions. Students are expected to arrive to class on time. A tardy of more than fifteen minutes will be considered an absence. Leaving class early will affect your attendance average.

Plagiarism:

Review school policies regarding plagiarism. All plagiarism incidents will

result in a 0 and will be reported to the student's academic advisor and dean.

Late work:

Please complete all assignments on time. Late work will not be accepted. Weekly essays are due when class begins. This requires that you be punctual. Your lowest weekly essay score will be dropped, however all essays must be turned in.

Communication:

Students are expected to communicate with the instructor when they have questions about course expectations. When using email, please include a subject line, your full name, standard fonts and a professional tone. When leaving voice mail, please leave your full name and a detailed message. I will respond to your messages within 24 hours.

Students with disabilities:

It is the student's responsibility to self identify with the Director of Personal Counseling in order to receive accommodations. Only those students with appropriate documentation will receive services. Contact the Director of Personal Counseling at (808) 739-4603 or email: jyasuhar@chaminade.edu

Weekly essays/presentations:

- a. Use a full heading, double space, use 12-point standard font, staple pages, cite at least two sources throughout the paper and in a works cited.
- b. Respond to questions posed by the instructor. 2-3 pages. Use an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs that express a different topic in each, and a concluding paragraph that sums up your paper.
- c. Email a copy to the instructor with a clear subject prior to class and bring a hard copy to class. Both are necessary for credit.

Major research paper: (4-6 pages)

- a. Focus on the country you choose the second week of class.
- b. Analyze this country's historical social structure, early government, economy, and culture.
- c. How does this country's early history compare to at least one other island group? Discuss the reasons for similarities and differences.
- d. Use a proper bibliography and citations throughout. Use at least five sources in your paper.
- e. Bring a hard copy to class and email a copy to the instructor prior to class.

Weekly assignments:

Week of August 29th: Introduction to class

Introductions

Determine field trip dates.

Discuss social media.

Week of September 5th: Photo analysis

1. Examine these sites:

<http://www.micsem.org/photos/europeans/thumbs.htm>

http://www.micsem.org/photos/life_100/thumbs.htm

2. Print out two pictures from the sites. Examine the people, settings, and items in the pictures. What do you see?

3. Essay:

How does each photo help you better understand the history of Micronesia? (1 paragraph per picture)

How can photos help historians better understand historical events? (1-2 paragraphs)

4. Choose island group to explore throughout the semester.

Week of September 12th: Settlement of the islands

1. Examine these sites and check out the links provided on each.

http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/publications_1.html

<http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/>

2. Find two sources that provide information on your country and this week's topic.

3. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)

How was your island (the island or islands your chose to research) settled? When? By whom? Why? (2-3 paragraphs)

After examining the sites above, write about a useful link that you found on one of the sites. Why is it useful? (1 paragraph, include the link)

Week of September 19th: Island origins

1. Read this article that can be found in the Chaminade library databases. Bring a hard or digital copy to class.

Nunn, Patrick D. "Fished up or Thrown Down: The Geography of Pacific Island Origin Myths." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Vol. 93, no. 2 (June 2003): pp. 350–364.

2. What origin myths are expressed in your island group? Find at least two additional sources that express these myths. You may want to examine the bibliography in the article above for relevant sources.

3. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)

What origin myths are expressed in your island group? (2 paragraphs)

How do these compare to the myths presented in the article? (1 paragraph)

To what extent do you support the findings in the article? (1 paragraph)

Week of September 26th: Sea of Islands

1. Read the article:

Hau'ofa, Epeli. "Our Sea of Islands." *The Contemporary Pacific* Vol. 6, No. 1 (Spring 1994): pp. 147–161.

<http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/handle/10125/12960/v6n1-148-161-dialogue.pdf?sequence=1>

2. Examine these pages on the Polynesian Voyaging Society website:

http://www.pvs-hawaii.com/History_Culture/settlement_part1.htm

http://www.pvs-hawaii.com/History_Culture/settlement_part2.htm

3. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)
Explain the different perceptions of the Pacific Islands that are expressed in the Hau‘ofa article. Whose perceptions are presented? How do they differ? (2 paragraphs)
Discuss the causes and effects of voyaging in Polynesia. (2 paragraphs)

Week of October 3rd: *Orientalism*

1. Read the chapter provided by the instructor on *Orientalism*.
2. Read *Sexuality and Aggression on Romonum, Truk* at <http://evols.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/handle/10524/11966/1958Swartz.pdf?sequence=1>
3. Find one article about your island group that could be an example of *Orientalism*. Read it.
4. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)
Explain why the article about Truk could be an example of *Orientalism*. Use details from the texts in 1 and 2. (2 paragraphs)
Explain how the text you found fits within the idea of *Orientalism* using specific details from your reading (1-2 paragraphs)
What should we keep in mind when reading about the Pacific given our new knowledge of *Orientalism*? (1-2 paragraphs)

Week of October 10th: Belief systems

1. Search for two articles or books that analyze the early belief system(s) practiced in your island group. Read them.
2. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)
Explain the origins of the belief system. (1 paragraph min.)
Explain the main tenets and practices of the belief system. (1-2 paragraphs)
Explain how the belief system impacted/impacts society, gender roles, and government. (2 paragraphs)

Week of October 17th: Land is life

1. Search for two articles or books that analyze land ownership and use in your island group. Read them.
2. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)
Explain the origins of land use system. (1 paragraph min.)
Explain how land is/was used and by whom. (1-2 paragraphs)
Explain how the land usage system impacted/impacts society, the economy, gender roles, and government. (2 paragraphs)

Week of October 24th: Gender roles, gender taboos

1. Read two chapters provided by the instructor from *Female Power, Male Dominance by Sanday* and *Ruling Chiefs of Hawai‘i* by Kamakau.
2. Search for two articles or books that analyze gender roles in your island group.
3. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.)
Explain the origins of gender roles in your island group. (1 paragraph min.)
Explain how the use of gender roles impacted/impacts society. (1-2 paragraphs)

Can you draw parallels between the gender roles discussed in the Sanday and Kamakau readings and the roles in your island group? Explain. (2 paragraphs)

Week of October 31st: Education

1. Search for two articles or books that analyze education in your island group. Read them.
2. View photos at: <http://www.micsem.org/photos/education/index.htm>
2. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.) Explain teaching and learning in your island group. Who controls knowledge? Who receives knowledge? How does learning take place? (3 paragraphs min.) How does education transform in Micronesia according to the photos? (1-2 paragraphs)

Week of November 7th: Topic of your choice

1. Search for two articles or books that analyze your topic of choice in your island group. Read them.
2. Essay: (Be sure to cite throughout your paper and provide a works cited.) You choose the structure and topics to be discussed in your paper.

Week of November 14th: Research paper/presentation brainstorming

1. Bring a (hard copy) detailed outline that follows the format discussed in the directions on page 2 of the syllabus. Attach a works cited. Both are necessary for credit.

Week of November 28th: Cultural activity share out

1. Essay:
Explain which event you attended and why.
Explain the purpose of the event.
Provide evidence that you attended the event. (artifacts, photos with speakers)
Explain what you learned about Pacific Island culture at this event.
2. Prepare to share your experiences with the class.

Weeks of December 5th through 12th: Final paper presentations

1. Research paper due via hard copy and email. The email must be sent prior to class.
2. Presentations:
Choose a format of your choice. Consider using a format that is culturally appropriate for your island group.
Choose only two topics from your paper to share. (education, gender, land)
Present what you have learned about these two topics with regards to your island group and one other island group. Draw conclusions.
Provide at least two visuals that can assist the class in better understanding your message.
Provide an appropriate conclusion.

**The instructor reserves the right to make reasonable changes to this syllabus.