

Chaminade University

Suzanne Acord, PhD

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Classroom: Henry Hall 207 Class time: 3:45-5:20PM, Thursdays

Office hours: 5:20-5:40PM, Thursdays

Pacific Islands in the Modern Era: HI-453-01

Phone: 808-783-6034

Course description and objectives: This course will allow students to explore the contemporary Pacific. Students will hone their ability to analyze and explain historical patterns throughout the Pacific. Students will examine past and current political, economic, and social challenges facing the Pacific and will celebrate the many successes of 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	12 essays/presen.	X 5 points
Weekly contributions to class blog	12 contributions	X 2 points
Three mandatory field trips and written reflections	3 field trips	X 10 points
One major research paper/presentation	1 project	X 25 points
Attendance and participation	16 classes	X 3 points

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 fifteen minutes will be considered an absence. Leaving class early will affect your attendance average. Students who miss more than three classes will be dropped from the course.

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 and blog posts are due when class begins. This requires that you be punctual.

Communication:

Students are expected to communicate with the instructor when they have questions about course expectations. Avoid procrastination. Contact your instructor BEFORE an assignment is due rather than the day it is due. 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.

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: Due when class begins.

- a. Use a full heading, double space, use 12-point standard font, staple pages, cite all sources throughout the paper and in a works cited. Please edit your work.
- b. Respond to questions posed by the instructor. 2 pages and a works cited. Use an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs that express a different topic in each, and a concluding paragraph that sums up your paper.
- c. Use both essay questions and blog readings/videos in your essays.
- d. 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.

Weekly blog contributions: Due before class begins. (acordpac.weebly.com)

1. Answer the questions using your own words. (3-4 sentences)
2. Refer to passages from our readings and/or videos.
3. Avoid quotations. We want to hear YOUR thoughts.
4. Respond to at least one peer's initial comment. Response ideas: Do you agree with this comment? Why/Why not? Would you like to share a different perspective? (3-4 quality/edited sentences)
5. End each post with your first name and last initial. For example: Barack O.
6. Edit your work before clicking submit.

Major research paper/presentation: (4-6 pages)

- a. Focus on the two countries that were assigned to you the second week of class.
- b. Analyze two contemporary issues facing these countries. Discuss the history of the issues, the impact of the issues, how the countries are addressing the issues, and your suggestions on how to address the issues. Create real world solutions for these issues.
- c. Use a proper bibliography and citations throughout. Use at least five sources in your paper. Use credible sources only. About.com, Wikipedia, and other non-academic sources are not acceptable.
- d. Bring a hard copy to class and email a copy to the instructor prior to class.
- e. Share your new knowledge through a creative and meaningful presentation. Class engagement is important. Please avoid pure lecture/Power Point presentations. (5-7 minutes)

Weekly Assignments

It will be difficult to participate in class if you choose not to complete all assignments.

Week 1, January 16th

1. Introductions, syllabus discussion, field trip discussion

Week 2, January 23rd Introduction to perspective and sources

1. Essay due. Examine these links and the links they provide. How might they be useful to you this semester? Find at least one additional site that your peers can use this semester. Describe its usefulness. Please also refer to the blog post video in your essay.
http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/publications_1.html
<http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/>
2. Blog post and peer response due. View this link on *Orientalism*. How will this information inform your research this semester? Who is the “other”?
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yH2T6a_2gBo

Week 3, January 30th Micronesia case study

1. Essay due. Examine a few photo albums from this site. How do they help you understand the history of Micronesia? Choose at least three photos to discuss in your essay and in class. How do these photos help you understand the history of Micronesia? Use detail. Please also refer to the blog post videos in your essay.
<http://www.micsem.org/photos.htm>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIIrrPyK0eU>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sbtpazYra0>
2. Blog post and peer response due. How do the videos help you understand different perspectives?

Week 4, February 6th Making connections

1. Essay/letter due. Write a letter to an ambassador or local diplomat who represents one of the countries you are researching for your final project. You will need to find the country’s diplomatic website to do this. Introduce yourself in your letter and invite this person to our class to speak about issues facing this country. Or, ask this person if our class can visit the embassy/consulate. Professionalism, tone, and clarity are important. Please see your instructor immediately if you need assistance on writing a professional letter. Bring an envelope, stamp, and your letter to class.
2. Blog post and peer response due. To whom did you write? Why? What did you learn from this country’s diplomatic website? Provide a link for your peers.

Week 5, February 13th Hybridity

1. Essay due. First watch the video. What is hybridity? Who is the subaltern? Examine an official government website for one of your countries. Locate a modern day constitution for at least one country you are researching. Read the constitution. Can hybridity be found in your country’s constitution? Are there remnants of a colonial power in the constitution? Why might this be the case?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2KcMJFNHB8>
2. Blog post and peer response due. Discuss the findings you shared in your essay. How will your knowledge of hybridity impact your future research?
3. Bring a printed copy of the constitution to class.

Week 6, February 20th Colonialism in Australia (This requires extensive time.)

1. **In class essay** on the movie, *Rabbit Proof Fence*. Please do not write your essay at home. The DVD is available at the Chaminade library and via Netflix DVD service. It is not available on Netflix streaming. Please carefully watch the movie. Questions to consider while watching the movie. How is colonialism expressed in the story? Who is impacted? How? By whom?
2. Blog post and peer response due: What modern day implications do you think the colonialism expressed in this story has had on Australia?

Week 7, February 27th Resource exploration

1. Meet at the entrance of Hamilton Library on the University of Hawaii campus at 3:45. Please arrive on time. We cannot accommodate late students.
2. Be prepared to research imperialism or an attempt at imperialism in one of your countries. You will need at least some direction prior to beginning your research. Bring coins/change just in case you would like to make copies.
3. Prior to leaving the library, be prepared to share what you found and learned while in the Pacific Collection with your peers and instructor.

Week 8, March 6th Impact of foreign influence

1. Essay due. Describe the impact of foreign influence on at least one of your countries. Was colonialism practiced? If so, by whom? When? Why? What was your country's response to colonialism? This will require you to examine at least two academic sources. Cite them in your paper and provide a works cited. These are great sources, but are not required:
http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/resources_1.html
<http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/2828>
2. Blog post and peer response due. Provide a brief overview of foreign influence in one of your countries. Provide at least one useful link for your peers.

Week 9, March 13th Issues facing the Pacific Islands

1. Essay due. Describe one challenge your country is facing at this moment. What is the history of this challenge? How is it impacting your country? How is your country responding to this challenge? This will require you to examine at least two academic sources. Cite them in your paper and provide a works cited.
2. Blog post and peer response due. Provide a brief overview of the challenge your country is facing. Provide at least one useful link for your peers.

Week 10, March 20th Environmental concerns

1. Essay due. What environmental challenge is your country facing? Climate change? Rising sea levels? Nuclear ramifications? Coral bleaching? Why? What impact is this having on the residents? How are the residents responding? Use at least two sources. These are useful sites, but are not required:
<http://aosis.org>

<http://www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-overview>
<http://www.pacificclimatechange.net>

2. Blog post and peer response due. Provide a brief overview of the environmental challenge your country is facing. Provide at least one useful link for your peers.

Week 11, April 3rd Economic conditions

1. Essay due. Describe the historical and contemporary economic systems in at least one of your countries. How has the economy transformed? Why? Describe at least one economic challenge your country is currently facing. What is the history of this challenge? How is this challenge impacting the residents? How are the residents responding? Do you have a suggestion for the government or residents of the country? Use at least two academic sources. Cite them.
2. Blog post and peer response due. Provide a brief overview of the economic challenge your country is facing. Provide at least one useful link for your peers.

Week 12, April 10th Society and culture

1. Essay due. Choose one social issue to focus on for this essay (gender, education, social structures, home life, family, language, traditions). What is the current status of this issue? Why? How do the current conditions compare to the historical conditions? Why? Use at least two sources. Cite them.
2. Blog post and peer response due. Provide a brief overview of the history and current status of the issue. Provide at least one useful link.

Week 13, April 17th Politics and governance

1. Essay due. Has your country's government transformed throughout the years? How? Who holds power now? Who held power in the past? How is power gained? Used? Use at least two sources in addition to your country's constitution.
2. Blog post and peer response due. Provide the link to the constitution in your blog post. Describe one interesting characteristic of this constitution.

Week 14, April 24th United Nations (Topic to be determined) and Field Trip Reflections

1. Essay/Model UN position statement due: Bring a 1-page position statement that expresses your country's history of involvement in this issue. How will you, as a representative on your country, address this issue?
2. Three field trip reflections due. 1 page per field trip. Describe where you went and what you experienced. Include an artifact and/or photo from each trip.

Weeks 15 and 16, May 1st and 8th Presentations and essays due

1. Research papers due on May 1st. Presentations on both days. See guidelines above.