

Course Syllabus for Pacific History 454

History 454 **Pacific Island History, Politics, Culture**

Days/Time: M-W-F 11:00-11:50
Place: Henry Hall, Room #225
Instructor: Frank Bailey

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Office Hours: 2-3:00 M-W-F

Course Description:

Welcome to the study of Pacific Island history! This course will examine the Pacific Islands and it's peoples' pasts since contact with the west. This course will focus on the themes of cultural contact and cross-cultural history as we examine the effects of colonialism and the process of decolonization. The Pacific is a dynamic region only now experiencing the joys and hardships of political and, to a lesser degree, economic freedom after centuries of imperial oppression. As such this region of the globe is poised to truly expand its influence as we explore the new millennium. This course will discuss the issues that confront this region in the modern world and the pressures that have shaped it in the past.

The intellectual and political concerns surrounding the doing of history in the Pacific are challenging yet fascinating. One of the problems confronting the student of Pacific Islands history is that most of the available written record has been created by outsiders, by non-Pacific Islanders. As such these accounts tell us more of the culture that formed the author rather than the object of his (for there were few women writers) fascination and observation. The accuracy and reliability of outside scholars, then, is a topic that will concern us throughout this course. We will also take into consideration the strong link that exists between the past and the present in any historical consciousness, and to the different definitions, purposes, presentations, and methods of inquiry that history has in different cultural settings. As such we will come to understand what history in the Pacific is, how it differs from the history practiced in the West and how that history has served to shape opinion and define the reality of most Pacific Islanders. Above all else this is a course designed to look at history through a *cultural* perspective. As such it is our goal to learn more about the cultures, indigenous and not, that have, and still, define the Pacific.

Course Objectives:

- Develop and comprehend a better understanding of how history is not simply things that happened in the past, but the **study** of a knowable past and therefore greatly impacted by the perspectives and ideologies of the present
- Develop a better understanding how the Pacific region has been impacted by and has impacted imperialism, colonialism, as well as the current trend of global economics
- Develop a better understanding and appreciation for the diverse regions and their cultures scattered throughout the Pacific
- To introduce and develop graduate level writing and critical analysis through the reading materials, reaction papers, as well as group discussions

In addition, while gaining a better understanding of the world we live in this course is focused on developing critical skills that are necessary for your further development as a student and a person within this increasingly global community. As such this course also seeks to develop better

- Critical thinking
- Comprehensive reading,
- Analytical reasoning
- and persuasive writing skills

while studying the history of the Pacific Islands and their peoples.

Books: Albert Wendt, *Pouliuli*
Alan Duff, *Once Were Warriors*
Nagugi wa Thiong'o, *Decolorizing the Mind*

Course Requirements:

This course is structured to allow for lectures and group discussion. The course is designed around assigned readings, the assigned texts as well as many handouts, and our reactions to those readings. As such it is imperative you keep up with the assigned readings for they compose the majority of this courses material. During the course you shall be responsible for two book reviews to the works you shall be reading, four examinations, which will include a mid-term examination, and a final, and four short reaction papers. For your book reviews you may choose to write one reaction on either Duff or Wendt and must react to Nagugi. My expectations for these assignments shall be covered in class.

Grading:

There are no curves in this course. Grades shall be assessed through the points you earn. Each of the four reaction papers are worth 50 points and each book review is worth 100 points. Each exam is worth 100 points making 800 points the total possible for the course. The grading goes as follows:

A = 800-720

B = 719-640

C = 649-560

D = 559-480

F = anything below 480 point will receive and F for the course

Attendance:

I expect all students to be on time and in attendance at all class sessions. Though class participation is not afforded a point total it does factor greatly into your grade and your ability to do well on the exams.

Course Outline:

Week 1	Course Introduction Lecture – Pacific History Review Lecture – A Sea of Islands
Week 2	Lecture - Colonial Scrambles Lecture Armed Resistance
Week 3	Lecture – Syncretic Sects Film – Trobriand Cricket
Week 4	Lecture – Political Protests Lecture – Economic Protests
Week 5	Lecture – Hawaii as a Colony Film – Conquest of Hawaii Exam 1
Week 6	Lecture - Hawaii as a Nation Lecture – Current events
Week 7	Lecture – Japanese Micronesia Lecture – The Big Death Wendt Book Review Due
Week 8	Film – Angles of War
Week 9	Film – Nuklia fri Pasifik Lecture – Cold War: Micronesia Exam 2
Week 9	Lecture – Franconesia Lecture – Vanuatu
Week 10	Midterm Break
Week 11	Kanaky/New Caledonia Duff Book Review Due
Week 12	Lecture – Aotearoa Lecture – New Politics?
Week 13	Lecture - Fiji Lecture – Critical Mass: Coups Exam 3

- Week 14 Lecture - Nation Building
 Film – Tourism
- Week 15 Lecture – Economic Futures
 Lecture – Free Association?
- Week 16 Lecture - Diasporas: MIRAB
 Lecture – A Pacific Way?
 Nagugi Book Review Due

Final Exam to be announced

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