

## Hawaiian Religious Beliefs Hu 480

### Oral traditions of Hawaii

Instructor: Kumu John K. Lake

Kieffer Hall Room 6, e-mail : keolalake@hotmail.com or

[jlake@adjunct.chaminade.edu](mailto:jlake@adjunct.chaminade.edu) Office hrs: M 10:00 am to 11:00am

Tth 9:30 am to 10:30 am

### Hawaiian Religious Beliefs

*“ Ka pule a kau kaula nei e haipule ai i mua o kou alo ”*

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

### Course syllabus

**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*

3. Hawaiian theology: Gods & Humans. Have a clear understanding of the Hawaiian theological concepts of God(s) and Man (Kanaka)
4. 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 C ulture: 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
  1. Psychological and Sociological theories
  2. Supernatural forces and beings
  3. Intervention of Gods in Human affairs
  4. Life after death
  5. Religious practice
- Unit 3. Migrations: Origins and Settling patterns in Pacific
  1. Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia
  2. 1500 B.C. Early Voyagees
  3. 1180 A.D. Long Voyages
  4. Reasons for Voyaging
  5. How they traveled, what they brought.
- Unit 4. Na Ho'okele : (navigators) Na Honua I Ho'ea 'ia (Lands Settled)
  1. Language is cultural identity
  2. "Ha" (Life force ) in Honua (Universe & World)
- Unit 5. Genealogical framework of Hawaiian chiefs
  1. Understanding the Cosmogonic Beginning
  2. The Kumulipo, chant of C reation

- 3. Heroic Period – great voyages and Navigators
- 4. Settlement Period – Establishing and expanding land base.- stronger religious base- Kapu & Kanawai
- 5. Dynasty period: Chiefdoms and expansion
- Unit 6. Genealogy and Oral Traditions
  - 1. Deification and memory-base- pre-history or written record
  - 2. Power of memory – A’apo, basis of oracity
  - 3. Profile of Hawaiian chants, Lyric and Literature of Hawai’I
- Unit 7. Rituals and Ceremonies
  - 1. Life cycle of Ke Kanaka, man
  - 2. Sacred sites and places
  - 3. The Kahuna and the priesthood
  - 4. Rituals and ceremonies
  - 5. Hale Wanana, Halau Hula and Halau Lua, schools

**Course Requirements:** this course will be based on the following requirements:

**Attendance:** presence at class. The university practice of allowing only 3 (three) cuts. Participation in discussion is essential To inquiry and understanding.

**Liability /waiver forms** will be needed when we take field trips to various temples on O’ahu

**Required essay/paper** Each student will be required to complete a paper from a selected field of topics regarding Hawaiian religion and practices. Your paper should have a minimum of 15 pages, type-written, double-spaced and numbered page. Also documentation of References and resources. The objective , of course, for this paper Is to encourage critical and reflective research concerning Hawaiian religious practices, beliefs and rituals.

**Course text and supplement;**

Prepared units will be provided by the instructor. There will be a list Of required readings from the following sources:

Polynesian Family system of Ka'u Puku'i, Mary Kawena, Bishop Museum Press  
Hawaiian Poetry of Religion and Politics John Charlot, University of Hawaii Press  
Nana I ke Kumu , vol I & II Pukui, Mary Kawena & Catherine Lee, Hui Hana 1973  
The Kahuna, Sorcerers of Hawaii, Past and Present, Julius Rodman Exposition Press 1979  
Kingship and Sacrifice Valerio Valeri, University of Chicago Press 1985  
Hawaiian Antiquities David Malo Bishop Museum  
Ka po'e kahiko. The people of Old, Ka hana o ka po'e Kahiko, the works of the people of Old Samuel Kamakau Bishop Museum

**Other bibliography sources will be provided.**

### **Course Grading:**

Attendance & Participation	100
Field Trip	100
Required paper	150
Quizzes ( per meeting time)	50
mid-term and final exam	100
Possible	500
points	

Grading on class curve.

### **Exceptions:**

In cases of illness or unforeseen conflict, assignments , quizzes can be made up. In the case of field trip, see the instructor.