

## **Decolonial Futures (POLS 777)**

UHIP & IGOV exchange, December 5th- 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Professors: Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua and Noenoe Silva

*"We are trying to get people back to the right timescale, so that they can understand how they are connected to what is to come...we are operating on geological and genealogical time. Protecting the 'āina, carrying on our traditions, speaking our language, and acting as kahu for our sacred places are not things measured in days, or weeks, or even years. This work spans generations and eras and epochs."*

Bryan Kamaoli Kuwada in ["We live in the future. Come join us."](#)

*"Story is the most powerful force in the world—in our world, maybe in all worlds. Story is culture. Story, like culture, is constantly moving. It is a river where no gallon of water is the same gallon it was one second ago. Yet it is still the same river. It exists as a truth.*

*As a whole. Even if the whole is in constant change. In fact, because of constant change."* Deborah Miranda in *Bad Indians*

### **Course overview**

How are Indigenous peoples envisioning and creating futures to replace colonial and imperial relations, recognizing that those relations are gendered in particular ways? What resources do ancestral stories, genealogies and histories provide to expand our imaginations and give us guidance in futures-creation? What can we learn from Kanaka Maoli community-based resurgence work that connects stories, lands and generations? These essential questions provide a springboard for this course, in which "decolonial" does center formal processes for decolonization under international law but instead aims higher to imagine and enact transformation beyond states and capitalism. We will attend to ways gender matters in these visions from our pasts and futures. We aim to stimulate conversations about the ways Indigenous people draw on ancestral stories to reshape notions of time, place and possibility.

This is a highly-experiential, place-based and project-based course, which includes a two-week intensive exchange with the Indigenous Governance Program (IGOV) at University of Victoria. During the two-week exchange, we will all travel to Hawai'i island to learn from community organizations and individuals who are taking various forms of action to challenge militarized settler colonial land use and instead enact kuleana-based relationships that renew Hawaiian mo'olelo (stories/histories) and mo'okū'auhau (genealogies) as critical foundations for 'Ōiwi futurity. Stories of Kānaka who are rooted in land and routed across seas will inform our thinking together.

By experiencing and reflecting on the intersections of theory and practice, of Hawaiian and North American Native politics, and of intellectual and physical work, students and faculty from both UHIP and IGOV will be engaged in rigorous and meaningful projects that help us meet the following learning objectives:

- Discuss and deploy the frameworks of Indigenous resurgence, Indigenous futurity and Indigenous futurisms;
- Consider the role of story in processes of Indigenous future-creation;

- Explore land reclamation strategies on Hawai'i island, by meeting communities remaking militarized and corporatized settler colonial relations to land; and
- Reflect on the kinds of creative and analytical work that contribute to the restoration and resurgence of Indigenous land-based existence-in-relation.

O'ahu-based class meetings will be used to build a shared knowledge base, before we head to Hawai'i island. On Hawai'i, we will visit and work alongside various community organizations, educators and activists. We will visit the mountain homes of akua (deities), Pele and Poli'ahu, at Kīlauea and Mauna a Wākea. We will discuss on-going land struggles at Mauna a Wākea and Pōhakuoa. The creation of preferred futures requires cooperation and collaboration. Similarly, the course is designed to encourage collaborative learning. Some of the assignments are geared toward developing your skills in relating between university and non-university spaces, or between 'academic' and 'popular' audiences.

**Required Texts:**

Butler, Octavia E. *Wild Seed*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2001.

Chang, David A. *The World and All the Things upon It: Native Hawaiian Geographies of Exploration*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016.

ho'omanawanui, ku'ualoa. *Voices of Fire: Reweaving the Literary Lei of Pele and Hi'iaka*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014.

Justice, Daniel Heath. *Kynship: The Way of Thorn and Thunder, Book One*. Warton, Ontario: Kegedonce Press, 2005.

Simpson, Leanne. *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-creation, Resurgence and a New Emergence*. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Publishing, 2011.

Thomas, Sheree Renee. *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements*. Edited by Walidah Imarisha and adrienne maree brown. Oakland: AK Press, 2015. *(we will only be reading selections from this book.)*

All other readings are either hyperlinked in this document or can be downloaded from Laulima.

**Course Requirements/Assignments and Expectations:**

1. **Participation and Attendance.** As a participant in an intensely-experiential course and exchange, you must be fully present at all sessions.
2. **Reading Responses.** For the five initial UHIP-only sessions, UH students are expected to write a response to one or more of the readings for each week.
3. **Wahi Pana Presentations.** UHIP students will be responsible for introducing different wahi pana to our IGOV guests. Prepare a 3-4 page handout on your designated place, which can include relevant 'ōlelo no'eau, mo'olelo, mele and any other ways of mapping this place. Be prepared to tell one or two stories of this place when we visit. Help our group to make connections to course themes of Indigenous futurities, futurisms and resurgence, as well as kuleana and ea.
4. **Creative Presentations.** UHIP and IGOV [Students will be organized into small groups.](#) Each small group will present some form of creative expression (song, chant, poem, visual piece, etc.) that speaks to their experience on Hawai'i island. These presentations will begin our debriefing session when we return to O'ahu.

5. **Final paper:** To close the exchange, participants will share a short story about a place that they feel will help to expand the possibilities for decolonial futures. For the final paper, UHIP students will take the story they share and build upon it in a written form. You can utilize any written form that makes sense to you, and you are encouraged to draw inspiration from the various forms you have encountered in the course: speculative fiction, an expression of storied land, the reinterpretation of a traditional mo'olelo, a critical analysis of a text or set of texts, etc. Your paper should also include a reflection on how your piece connects to themes and questions we have taken up in class. *Papers will be due Dec 16*. We highly recommend that you begin working on this paper before the two-week exchange with IGOV begins, because the two weeks together will be incredibly full and intense. That time should be a time for you to refine and reflect, rather than compose from scratch.

Grading will be based on students' participation in all learning experiences, engagement during classroom sessions, contribution to group projects, and final paper.

### Schedule

UHIP ONLY Class meetings	Topic	Reading
1	Indigenous futurisms, futurities and resurgence  Hoolauna and expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornassel, "Reenvisioning Resurgence"</li> <li>• Tuck &amp; Gaztambide, "Curriculum, Replacement, and Settler Futurity"</li> <li>• Cornum, "<a href="#">The Space NDNs Star Map</a>"</li> </ul>
2	Indigenous & Afro-futurisms	<i>Wild Seed</i> and selections from <i>Octavia's Brood</i>
3	Indigenous & Afro-futurisms	Daniel Justice's <i>Kynship</i> or Zainab Amadahy's <i>The Moons of Palmares</i>
4	Indigenous creativity, refusal and future-making	Martineau, <i>Creative Combat: Indigenous Art, Resurgence, and Decolonization</i>
5	Indigenous resurgence & everyday acts *Oli practice & makana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simpson, <i>Dancing on our Turtle's Back</i></li> <li>• Hunt &amp; Holmes, "Everyday Decolonization: Living a</li> </ul>

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**UHIP-IGOV shared schedule**

Class meeting	Topic	Reading
1 Mon, Dec 5  Time: Location:	Welcoming protocols, introductions and orientation  Indigenous futurisms, futurities & resurgence	
2  Tues, Dec 6	Hawaiians Travelling: Gender, mana, Pele & Hi'iaka	hoomanawanui, <i>Voices of Fire</i>
3 Wed, Dec 7	Approaches to Native Feminist praxis and future-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goeman, "Notes toward a Native Feminist's Spatial Practice"</li> <li>• Kahaleole Hall, "Navigating our own "Sea of Islands"</li> <li>• Million, "Felt Theory"</li> <li>• Arvin et al, "Decolonizing Feminism"</li> </ul>
4 Thur, Dec 8	Ka Moku o Keawe (Hawai'i Island) * Depart O'ahu in the morning (around 9am)  Aina/Community session: Resurgence work & mo'olelo in Koholālele with huiMAU	<a href="#">He Mo'olelo no 'Umi</a> (read all available chapters on the huiMAU website, starting with <a href="#">8/16/2014</a> )
5 Fri, Dec 9	Ka Moku o Keawe  Aina/Community session: Mauna Kea Hui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peralto, "Mauna a Wākea: Hānau ka Mauna, The Piko of our Ea"</li> <li>• Kuwada, "<a href="#">We live in the future.</a>" And "<a href="#">We are not warriors. We are a grove of trees.</a>"</li> </ul>
6	Ka Moku o Keawe	

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Sat, Dec 10	Aina/Community session: Mookini Heiau	
7 Sun, Dec 11	Ka Moku o Keawe  Aina/Community session: Kilauea  Fly back to O'ahu (around 7pm)	hoomanawanui, <i>Voices of Fire</i>
8 Mon, Dec 12	Creative Presentations and Debrief	
9 Tues, Dec 13	Hawaiians Travelling:	Chang, <i>The World and All the Things Upon It</i>
10 Wed, Dec 14	Decolonial love and fugitive indigeneity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recollet, "Glyphing Decolonial Love"</li> <li>• Flowers, "<a href="#">Refusal to forgive: Indigenous women's love and rage</a>"</li> <li>• Figueroa, "<a href="#">Reparation as transformation: Radical literary (re)imaginings of futurities through decolonial love</a>"</li> <li>• Yamashiro, "<a href="#">Some baby steps toward a decolonial love story</a>"</li> <li>• Octavia Butler, "<a href="#">Bloodchild</a>"</li> </ul>
11 Thurs, Dec 15	Story workshop	
Fri, Dec 16	'Awa ceremony and story circle  Closing pā'ina (open to families, alums, etc.)	

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## Additional resources on Indigenous and Afro-futurisms

### Books

- So Long Been Dreaming anthology
- Walking the Clouds anthology
- Redwood and Wildfire by Andrea Hairston
- Midnight Robber by Nalo Hopkinson
- AfroFuturism anthology
- AfroFuturism 2.0 <https://www.bookdepository.com/Afrofuturism-2-0/9781498510509>
- The Mothership: Tales from Afrofuturism and Beyond <http://www.rosariumpublishing.com/rosarium-books-mothership.html>
- Mumbo Jumbo by Ishmael Reed
- High Aztek by Ernest Hogan
- The Black Imagination: Science Fiction, Futurism and the Speculative by [Sandra Jackson](#) (Editor), [Julie E. Moody-Freeman](#) (Editor)
- Black and Brown Planets: The Politics of Race in Science Fiction
- The Comet by [W.E.B. Du Bois](#)
- The Farthest Home Is in an Empire of Fire: A Tejano Elegy (Tejano and Mestizo Futurism and settlement)
- Black Pacific by Robbie Shilliam
- The Sea Is Ours: Tales from Steampunk Southeast Asia
- *Hope at Sea: Possible Ecologies in Oceanic Literature* by Teresa Shewry

### Music

- Climbing Poetree: "Heart Led Rebellion"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29XRgoYS7CA> and spoken word at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzGNqp5I3\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzGNqp5I3_U)
- MC Red Cloud, "Native Threats":  
<https://mcredcloud.bandcamp.com/track/native-threats>
- Indigenous Futurisms mixtape:  
<https://soundcloud.com/rpmfm/indigenous-futurisms-mixtape>
- Mike Ladd - 5000 Miles West Of The Future, "Welcome to the Afterfuture"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQV5wByzzPU&app=desktop>

### Websites

- <http://blacksaltcollective.squarespace.com/about/>
- <http://survance.org/how-to-play/> a game by Elizabeth Lapensee
- <http://www.elizabethlapensee.com/>
- <http://atribecallegeek.com/>
- <http://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/the-hybridized-writings-of-tisa-bryant>
- **Also on Tisa Bryant:** <http://xpoetics.blogspot.com/2009/03/goings-on-and-tisa-bryants-unexplained.html>