

POLS 307C: Comparative Pacific Islands Politics (WI)

Spring 2017

Instructor: Ponipate Rokolekutu

Class Times: Mon. & Wed. 12.30 – 1.45pm

Room: KUY: 313

Course Description

The Islands of the Pacific or what is contemporarily referred to as Oceania constitutes a vast territory that comprises thousands of islands scattered across the enormous Ocean of the Pacific. The colonization of most of the Islands occurred during the Second Wave of European colonial expansion, which began in the mid-eighteenth century and accelerated in the mid-nineteenth century culminating into what is commonly denoted as the “Scramble for Africa”. The study of Oceania is particularly difficult simply because of its complexity. This includes the kaleidoscopic nature of Pacific Islands cultures and traditional polities, the heterogeneous process of the colonial encounter, and the complex trajectory of post-colonial politics. This is further complicated by the impacts of climate change particularly in atoll island nations and its implications on the future socio-economic and political landscapes of the Pacific Islands.

This course examines some of these complexities. It will be prefaced by a critical examination of the anthropological framing of Islanders into Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. The course will proceed to survey the trajectory of European colonial expansion and the colonization of the Pacific Islands. It is designed to expose the dispossessing and eviscerating attributes of colonization through an examination of the various colonial projects of oppression, dispossession and marginalization. Furthermore, the course will also look at the continuing colonization of West Papua and Easter Island, by the Indonesian and Chilean governments, and the role of the United Nations and metropolitan countries such as Australia and the U.S. in these colonial enterprise.

In comparative terms, students will have the opportunity to juxtapose British and French colonial policies, and examine, the ways in which, colonial policies and institutions shape post-colonial politics and the economic conditions of Pacific Islanders in the post-colonial. Finally, the course explores some of the critical contemporary issues that have shaped the political configurations of the post-colonial politics in the Pacific Islands.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are to:

- i. instill awareness of the complexity of the Pacific Islands societies
- ii. to acquire a critical understanding of colonialism
- iii. to acquire insights on the consequences of colonization on the colonized
- iv. enhance students' understanding of post-colonial politics in the Pacific Islands
- v. explore how Pacific Islanders engage with global economic forces and how they create strategies for survival.
- vi. acquire a well- rounded understanding of the dynamics of Pacific islands politics

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- a. articulate the racialized categorization of Pacific Islanders
- b. comprehend and articulate the cultural, historical and political diversity of Oceania
- c. to articulate the economic conditions of the colonized within the context of colonial policies and institutions
- d. articulate the ongoing colonization of West Papua and Easter Island
- e. identify the differences between British and French colonial policies
- f. understand and articulate the cultural, economic and political impacts of colonialism
- g. discuss the economic challenges facing Pacific Islanders
- h. understand and explain the strategic approach of Pacific Islanders in the face of global economic forces

Assignments and Assessment

This is a Writing Intensive (WI) class and hence you will be doing a lot of writing. You will be given written feedback on your essays. The feedback is going to be on the hard copy. You will also be given the opportunity to rewrite your concept papers under extenuating circumstances. The class also entails classroom discussion that requires you to lead the discussion at least once. It is absolutely important that you come prepared with a number of questions and reflections to share.

Attendance & Participation

You are expected to attend all classes, keep up with readings, and participate in discussions. Attendance and participation are worth 10 percent of the overall course grade. Class participation includes taking part in group discussions and a group project/presentation at the end of the semester. A doctor's note is required for a missed class or exam. More than two (2) absences will result in a 2 percent deduction for each missed class. You are also expected to have read the readings assigned for each week.

Bi-Monthly Concept/Reflection Papers

You are required to write seven (7) Concept Papers during the semester. The Concept Papers should be 2- 3 pages long. You must demonstrate that you have read the readings, reflected on them thoughtfully and critically, and are able to relate them to issues and events in the Pacific Islands, as well as to relevant personal experiences. Journals must be typed, double spaced and submitted into Lulima Drop Box biweekly.

Research Proposal -Imagined Research

Write a research proposal on an imagined research project that is based any concept(s) or critical political issue(s) that we discussed in class. What more about that concept(s) would you want to know? What kind of information (historical, scientific, first hand narrative) do you need? Why is the research project important in the Pacific Islands or Oceania? Final paper is write up of plans and dreams for a future research paper that builds on a concept. Write up the second presentation (5-7 pages)

Presentation of Concept Papers

You will be required to make two (2) presentations each. The first consists of leading the in-class discussion. The second will be the presentation of your research proposal of an imagine research project on any concept(s) or political issue(s) of your choice.

Course Assessment:

Attendance and Participation		10%
Concept Papers	(7) 2-3pages	70%
Imaginary research	5-7 pages	10%
Presentations		10%

Reading and Resources

The core textbooks for this course are as follows:

1. Campbell, I.C. *Worlds Apart: A History of the Pacific Islands*. 2nd Edition, Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, 2011.
2. Stephen Levine, I. *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016.
3. Oasterhammel, J. *Colonialism: a theoretical overview*. (translated from German by Shelley L. Frisch); 2nd Markus Wiener Publishers ed. Princeton, Markus Wiener Publishers, 2005.

Additional reading materials will be drawn from a variety of sources which will consist of 'conventional' academic papers, short stories, poems, contemporary music and films.

PLAGIARISM

The following is from <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

What is Plagiarism?

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. Source:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>

Note: Students who are caught plagiarizing will get a failed grade.

Course Content

Week 1: Introduction and the Discourse on the Racialized categorization of Pacific Islanders

Introducing the course -its overview, rationale, course objectives, and learning outcomes. Mapping exercise. Identify major events and where? The second part of the introduction entails a critical examination of racialized categorization of Pacific Islanders.

Readings:

1. Kabutaulaka, T. "Re-Presenting Melanesia: Ignoble Savages and Melanesian Alter-Natives", *The Contemporary Pacific*. Volume 27, Number 1. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2015.
2. The Black Pacific: forum, critiques, responses Posted on February 7, 2016
<https://robbieshilliam.wordpress.com/2016/02/07/the-black-pacific-forum-critiques-responses/>

Questions: What is Eurocentrism? How does it affect anthropological classification of Pacific Islanders? How has such categorization affect the way Pacific Islanders view themselves and their relationships to each other?

Part I: Colonialism and Imperialism: Definition, Dimension, Discourse and Analyses

Week 2: Colonialism: Definition and Dimensions

Readings:

1. Oasterhammel, J. *Colonialism: a theoretical overview*. (translated from German by Shelley L. Frisch); 2nd Markus Wiener Publishers ed. Princeton, Markus Wiener Publishers, 2005. (Chapters I &II).
2. Young R, J, C. *Post Colonialism: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publisher, 2001. (Chapter 2)
3. Cesaire, M: *Discourse Analyses*. Translated by Joan Pinkham. This version is published by Monthly Review Press: New York and London, 1972. Originally published as *Discours sur le colonialisme* by Editions Presence Africaine, 1955.
<http://www.rlwclarke.net/theory/SourcesPrimary/CesaireDiscourseonColonialism.pdf>

Questions:

What is colonialism? What are the different categories of colonies that Robert Young articulates and what their different characteristics? What transcends these different categories? What are the driving forces behind colonialism? How is colonialism justified? What are the different dimensions of colonialism highlighted by Aime Cesaire?

Week 3: Imperialism

Readings:

1. Smith, L, T. *Decolonizing methodologies: research and indigenous peoples*. 2nd ed. London; New York, Zed Books, 2012. (Chapter 1).
<https://micro189.lib3.hawaii.edu/ezproxy/patsearch.php>
2. Osterhammel, J. *Colonialism: a theoretical overview*. (translated from German by Shelley L. Frisch); 2nd Markus Wiener Publishers ed. Princeton, Markus Wiener Publishers, 2005. (Chapters I & II).

Questions:

What are the different dimensions of imperialism articulated by Linda Tuhiwai Smith? How do they differ or diverge from Osterhammel's discussion of imperialism? How does one distinguish imperialism from colonialism? Provide examples from the readings and elsewhere that accentuates such differences.

Week 4: European Colonial Trajectory, Conquest and Resistance

Readings:

1. Blue, G. "Introduction" (ed. in) *Colonialism and the Modern World*. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. New York, 2002. (pp1-21)
2. Lehning, J, R. *European Colonialism*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2013. (Chapter 1 pp 1-14)
3. Osterhammel, J. *Colonialism: a theoretical overview*. (translated from German by Shelley L. Frisch); 2nd Markus Wiener Publishers ed. Princeton, Markus Wiener Publishers, 2005. (Chapters III & IV).

Questions:

What are major colonial epochs of European colonial expansion? What distinguished each colonial epoch? What does Blue mean by "a new phase of colonial expansion" after the end of the first World War? Does colonialism ended following decolonization which accelerated at the mid twentieth century? Why is it important to comprehend trajectory of European colonial expansion?

Part II: Colonization of Oceania

Week 5: Oceania – Introduction ‘Discoveries’ and Juxtaposition of Narratives

Readings:

1. Campbell, I.C. *Worlds Apart: A History of the Pacific Islands*. 2nd Edition, Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, 2011. (Chapter 1)
2. Kabutaulaka, T. “Re-Presenting Melanesia: Ignoble Savages and Melanesian Alter-Natives”, ed. in *The Contemporary Pacific*. Volume 27, Number 1. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2015.
3. Campbell, I.C. *Worlds Apart: A History of the Pacific Islands*. 2nd Edition, Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, 2011. (Chapter 3)
4. Meleisea, M. And Schoeffel. “Discovering Outsiders”, ed. in *The Cambridge History of the Pacific Islanders*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1997.

Questions:

What is historiography? What is the dominant colonial narrative? What is critical epistemology? How different is Campbell’s historical/colonial narrative from that of Kabutaulaka, Meleisea and Schoeffel? Why is the word “discovery(ies) problematic?

Week 6: Colonization of the Pacific Islands

Readings:

1. Lehning, J, R. *European Colonialism since 1700*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2013. (Chapter 4 pp 107-115)
2. Campbell, I.C. *Worlds Apart: A History of the Pacific Islands*. 2nd Edition, Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, 2011. (Chapter 4,5 &6).

Questions:

Identify the dominant colonial power in the Pacific Islands? What were some of the colonial experiences that transcended across the Pacific Islands? What was Black birding and were the motives behind it? What is the the relationship between Black birding and the Transatlantic Slavery? To what extend did Black-birding led to the annexation of the Fiji Islands. What are the major impacts of the London Missionary Societies in Polynesian societies such as Samoa and Tonga?

Week 7: Colonialism and Dispossession: Case Studies - Fiji, Hawaii and New Caledonia

Readings:

1. Saussol A. "New Caledonia Colonization and Reaction". (ed. in) *Land Tenure in the Pacific, USP, 1987*.
2. Kame'eleihiwa, L, A. "Aftermath of the Mahele". *Native Land and Foreign Desires, Pehea La E Pono Ai?* Bishop Museum, 1992.
3. Drus, E. "The Colonial Office and the Annexation of Fiji", ed. in *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*. Fourth Series, Vol. 32 1950. (pp87-110)
4. Sharma, S. "The Control and Protection of Native Lands in Fiji", ed. in *Journal of South Pacific Law*. Working Paper 6 Volume 3, Vanuatu Law School, University of the South Pacific, Vanuatu 1999.

Questions:

What is the concept of Land in the Pacific Islands? How land alienated in Hawaii, New Caledonia and Fiji? What were the role of chiefs in land alienation? What was exceptional about the annexation of Fiji as opposed to Hawaii and New Caledonia? How did Pacific Islanders react to colonization and how did it affect colonial rule?

Week 8: French and British colonization in the Pacific

Readings:

1. Halpern, R. and Daunton, M. "Introduction: British Identities, indigenous peoples and the empire", ed. in *Empire and Others British encounters with indigenous peoples, 1600-1850*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1999.
2. Bayly, C, A. "The British and indigenous peoples", ed. in *Empire and Others British encounters with indigenous peoples, 1600-1850*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1999.
3. Roberts, S, H. *The History of French Colonial Policy 1870-1925*. Frank Cass &Co. Ltd. London, 1963. (Chapter XIII)

Questions:

What the major differences between British and French colonial policies with regard to native land, indigenous cultures and the establishment of colonial economies?

Week 9: Ongoing Colonization in West Papua

Readings:

1. Crocombe, R. *Asia in the Pacific: Replacing the West*. Institute of Pacific Studies Publication, University of the South Pacific, Suva, 2007.
2. Carmel, B. *West Papua: the obliteration of a people*. TAPOL, London, 1988.
3. Poling, G. B. "West Papua", ed. in *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016.

Questions:

Which colonial power colonized West Papua and Indonesia? When was West Papua colonized? Who controlled the eastern side of Papua? When did the Dutch relinquish control of Indonesia and why? What was the status of West Papua (formerly West Irian) after the decolonization of Indonesia? When did Indonesia make claim of West Papua and why? What is The Hague Agreement and what was its ruling on the relationship between Indonesia and West Papua? When did the Indonesian government revoke The Hague Agreement? What is the role of the United Nations in the Indonesian occupation of West Papua? What is the nature of relationship between Indonesia and the rest of the Melanesia and the Oceanian region?

Week 10: Ongoing colonization in Easter Island

Readings:

1. Delsing, M. R. *Articulating Rapa Nui: Polynesian cultural politics in Latin American nation-state*. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 2015.
2. Jacinta, A. *Reclaiming Mana Repatriation in Rapa Nui*, 2015.
3. Young, F. W. "Rapa Nui/Easter Island", ed. in *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016.

Questions:

What is the nature of colonization in Easter Island? Why is Chile adamant about its colonial grip of the Rapa Nui people? What is the nature of colonial resistance of the Rapa Nui people? What is the role of tourism and real estate investors in the continuing colonization of Easter Island?

Part III: Postcolonial Discourse, Postcolonial Politics and Case Studies

Week 9: Postcolonial Discourse

Readings:

1. Young R, J, C. *Post Colonialism: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publisher, 2001.
2. *Empire, Colony and Postcolony*. John Wiley and Sons, Ltd, Sussex, 2015

Questions:

What is postcolonialism and what are its major tenets? Why is postcolonial theory crucial in understanding post-colonial development in the post-colonial? What are the loopholes in the theory?

Week 10: Economic Challenges and Regionalism

1. Readings: Stephen Levine, I. *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016. (Niue, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu and Tokelau)

Questions:

What are the major economic challenges facing the Pacific Islands? What are some of the strategies of addressing these challenges? How can these challenges be understood in the context of colonialism?

Week 11: The Politics of Compact Island Nations and Militarization in Micronesia

1. Stephen Levine, I. *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016. (Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau and FSM)

Questions:

What is militarization? What are the characteristics of militarization? What is the strategic nature of Micronesia in terms of the Asia-Pacific region? Which Asian countries constitute a threat to the United States? Why is it important for the U.S. to maintain global hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region? What are the impacts of maintaining such hegemony in the Micronesian Islands?

Week 12: Coups, Conflicts and Crises

1. Stephen Levine, I. *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016. (Fiji and Solomon Islands)

Questions:

What were the major causes of the military coups Fiji in 1987 and 2000? What was the role of Fijian chiefs in these coups? What were the major causes of ethnic tensions in the Solomon Islands?

Week 13: Coups, Conflicts and Crises (Continued)

1. Stephen Levine, I. *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016. (Tonga and French Polynesia)

Questions:

What is the role of the Tonga pro-democracy movement in the democratization of Tonga? What are the destabilizing forces in French Polynesia?

Week 14: Climate Change: Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands

Readings:

1. Climate Change and Pacific Islands: Indicators and Impacts
<http://www.cakex.org/sites/default/files/documents/Exec-Summary-PIRCA-FINAL2.pdf>
2. Pacific Climate Change Science
<http://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/>
3. IEP JELTOK: a basket of poetry and writing from Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner
<https://kathyjetnilkijiner.com/video-poems/?blogsub=confirming#subscribe-blog>
4. Frequently Asked Questions about Climate Change and Global Warming
https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/ghgemissions/Climate_Basics.pdf

Questions:

What about Climate Change in the Oceania?

Part V: Envisioning the Future of the Pacific Islands

Readings:

1. Stephen Levine, I. *Pacific Ways: Government and Politics in the Pacific Islands*. (2nd edition). Wellington, Victoria University Press, 2016.
2. Nero, K. "The End of Insularity: ed. in *The Cambridge History of the Pacific Islanders*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1997.

Questions:

How does envision the future of the Pacific Islands or Oceania in the context of Global Climate Change and the imposition of Neo-Liberal Economics?

Week 15

Week 16: Research Presentation

