

INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

SPRING SEMESTER 2019

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AND 0134

T | Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)

R | Period 4 - 5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM)

Office Hours: TR 1-4 PM

Anderson Hall 107C

Objectives of the course: This course seeks to understand comparatively the religious traditions of indigenous peoples from selected areas of the globe: the cultures of the Pacific, including Polynesia, Melanesia and Australia. The central objectives of our studies of these religious traditions are to comprehend the principles by which cosmogonies (the creation) are founded, cosmologies (worldviews) are constructed, the variety of beings that populate the cosmos are inter-related, and eschatologies (views on the end-of-times) are envisaged. The course will begin with readings on the ways in which scholars have approached the study of traditional religions. Then, we will discuss the ways in which native peoples understand the cosmos, their place in it and the moral responsibilities humans have in relation to each other and to all other living entities. We will also discuss how religious traditions have actively shaped their histories of relations with non-indigenous peoples (the West), which can often be seen in religious movements, for example, prophetism.

Following this introduction, the course enters into a reading and discussion of ethnographies and comparisons among the religious traditions of native Hawaiians; Australian Aborigines; the Maori of New Zealand; native peoples of Papua New Guinea.

A series of central themes and questions will guide our readings, discussions and paper-writing:

- Cosmogony, or, the beginning of the cosmos;

- Systems and properties of inter-related temporal and spatial structures of the cosmos; the vertical vs the horizontal cosmos;
- Knowledge of and moral/spiritual responsibilities to other beings in the cosmos and the surrounding environment;
- Values of sacredness attributed to place. "Sacred geography" (and especially, sacred landscapes) and other planes in traditional cosmologies;
- Time, history and change in indigenous spiritualities;
- Understandings of illness and health, the process of healing, within the wider context of beliefs about spiritual power in the cosmos; the impact of colonization on native spiritualities; healing from colonial oppression;
- The influences of Christianity and the nature of conversion from the perspectives of native peoples;
- Ideas of an imminent end-time, both in the traditional and the post-Christian context; radical solutions - healing, prophetism & 'cargo cult' (values on material wealth or healing)
- How Western views of indigenous religious traditions have denigrated and misrepresented them in the history of colonialism. How has the Christian understanding of history prevented the West from respecting indigenous religious traditions ?

Besides the Readings, an important part of this course will be a series of films mixed with ethnography, history, and issues related to sacred lands and indigenous spiritualities.

Readings

There are quite a few books available for the course at Smathers Reserve, Library West. Many Readings are posted as PDFs on the Canvas course website. The films are available either directly through the UF Library Proxy server, or the Professor. We will watch and critically discuss the films, together with the Readings, in class.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Week 1: Course Syllabus, Lecture Schedule, Requirements, etc.

I. Indigenous Religious Traditions

Week 2: Introduction to Indigenous Religions and Cultures of the Pacific

Readings (all pdfs on website):

Gary Trompf, "Pacific Islands" (pp. 1229-31) in: Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature, Bron Taylor (editor-in-chief), Continuum, London, 2006.

_____, "Polynesian Traditional Religions" (pp. 1287-8);

_____, "Polynesia – New Religious Movements" (pp. 1288-90.

Clarke, P.A., "Australian Aboriginal Mythology" Pp.382-401 in J. Parker & J. Stanton (eds). Mythology. Myths, Legends, & Fantasies. Global Book Publishing, Sydney.,

Week 3: Colonization and Decolonization

Readings:

UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), 2008, 18 pp. (pdf on website);

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, "Research Adventures on Indigenous Lands", Chapter 4 in Decolonizing Methodologies. Research and Indigenous Peoples. Second Edition. Zed Books. London & N.Y., 2012 (on Reserve at Smathers; also in Kindle e-book)

Video: "Act of War - The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation" 1993, Length: 58 minutes; Also recommended: <http://oiwi.tv/oiwivt/aloha-quest/> (Parts 1 & 2);

II. Kanaka Maoli Traditions of Hawai'i

Week 4: Presentation of the Kanaka Maoli people

Readings:

Davianna McGregor, Na Kua'aina. Living Hawaiian Culture. University of Hawai'i Press. 2007. Chapter 1, [PDF in Modules tab, single chapter in two files, pp. 1-9, and 10-48] .

"Hawaiian Terms and Places" .doc [in Modules]

Short Video Clips presenting Hawaiian religious traditions

Week 5: Foundational concepts in Hawaiian belief systems: Cosmogony, Genealogy

Readings:

Brown, M. Aloha hani (2015), pp. 11-18 (page numbers on top of the pages; pdf on website);

Kanahele, Ka Honua Ola. The Living Earth. Descend, Deepen the Revelation. [PDF is in two parts : Foreword (ix-xii), Preface (xiii-xvi), pp. 1-11](pdf on website);

Kame'eiehiwa, Kumulipo, 1999;

Videos on Pacific creation narratives

Week 6: The Creator Gods, ancestral deities, Origins of the Islands, Food, the system of Sacred Eating & the Idea of Kapu

Readings:

Moses Manu on “Hina”, pp. 20-21, in Brown, 2015 (pdfs on website);

Stories of Maui, pp. 22-25, in Brown, 2015 (pdf on website);

Fornander, “Mele a Paku’i”, and Joseph Kukahi, ‘Ai Kapu (translated by Marie Alohalani Brown) pp. 1-5 (.docs on website);

Kame‘eleihiwa, “Na Wahine Kapu”, pp. 1-16, 28-40;[PDF on website]

Stories of Kāne and Kanaloa in Brown , 2015, pp. 26-38: pdf on website;

Lono and Kū: all in Brown, 2015, pp. 39-50 all pdfs on website;

“Aumakua” (ancestor gods), sacred geography and landscapes, pp. 51-73, in Brown, 2015 (pdf on website);

Week 7: Kaho'olawe & Mauna Kea: Traditions, Sacred Land and Sovereignty**Readings:**

Alohalani Brown, “Mauna Kea: Ho‘omana Hawai‘i and Protecting the Sacred”, JSSRNC, special issue on “Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Spiritualities, and the Future of Humans in Nature” (pdf on website);

Ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui, “From Captain Cook to Captain Kirk, or, From Colonial Exploration to Indigenous Exploitation. Issues of Hawaiian Land, Ethnicity, and Nationhood in a ‘Post-ethnic’ World”, Ch. 8 of Transnational Crossroads. Remapping the Americas and the Pacific, edited By Camilla Fojas & Rudy P. Guevarra Jr. University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln & London, 2012, pp. 229-68. (pdf on website)

Films:

“Mauna Kea – Temple Under Siege”

<http://oiwi.tv/oiwitv/mauna-kea-temple-under-siege/>

“Pohakuloa: Now that you know, do you care?” by Kamakako'i on Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/94598875>

Reading:

Kaho'olawe and Healing Ceremony http://www.cjhp.org/Volume1_2003/IssueHI-TEXTONLY/25-33-lum.pdf

Video clips:

Kaho'olawe Documentary - "Mai Ka Piko Mai a Ho'i: Return to Kanaloa" Kaho'olawe Documentary - "Mai Ka Piko Mai a Ho'i: Return to Kanaloa"

Discussion of Films

III. Maori Religious Traditions of Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Week 8: Maori 1 - Art, Ritual, and Cosmology

Readings:

Peter Mataira, "Mana and tapu: Sacred knowledge, sacred boundaries", in: Harvey, Graham, (ed.) *Indigenous Religions. A Companion*. Cassell: London, 2000, pp. 99-112 (pdf on website);

Maori Marsden, "Kaitiakitanga: A Definitive Introduction to the Holistic Worldview of the Maori"; and "God, Man and Universe: A Maori View", in: *The Woven Universe. Selected Writings of Rev. Maori Marsden*, edited by Te Auhukaramu, Charles Royal. 2003. Pp. 54-72 & 2-23 (pdfs on website);

Alfred Gell, "Closure and Multiplication: An Essay on Polynesian Cosmology and Ritual", Ch. 21 of M. Lambek, *Readings in the Anthropology of Religion*. Pp. 290-305. (pdf on website)

Graham Harvey, "Art works in Aotearoa", in: Harvey, G. (ed.) *Indigenous Religions. A Companion*. Cassell: London, 2000, pp. 155-72 (pdf on website);

Week 9: Maori 2 – Christianity and Prophet Movements

Readings:

Wayne Te Kaawa, "A Gifted People: Maori and Pakeha Covenants within the Presbyterian Church", in: Hugh Morrison (ed.) *Mana Maori and Christianity*, Hula: Wellington, 2012, pp. 14-37 (Google e-books);

Simon Moetara, "Maori and Pentecostal Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand", in Morrison (ed.), *Mana Maori and Christianity*, pp. 100-21;

Murray Rae, "The Subversive Theology of Rua Kenana", in Morrison (ed.), *Mana Maori and Christianity*, pp. 276-99;

Keith Newman, "Ratana, the Prophet: Ma te wa – the sign of the broken watch", in Morrison (ed.), *Mana Maori and Christianity*, pp. 300-25;

October 17: Review for Take-home Midterm Essays. Take-home Midterm Essays Published on Course Website (turn in online at: 10/18 - 5 pm)

IV. Indigenous Religious Traditions of Papua New Guinea

Week 10: PNG 1 Chronicles of Contact and Transformation

Films:

First Contact directed by Bob Connolly, 1945- and Robin Anderson, 1948-2002; produced by Robin Anderson, 1948-2002 and Bob Connolly, 1945-, in Highlands Trilogy, 1 (New York, NY: Filmmakers Library, 1983), 51 mins. <http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/View/764432/>

Discussion of Film

Reading:

Gary Trompf, "Melanesian Traditional Religions", Ch. 1 in: Melanesian Religion (Cambridge, 1991) [pdf in Module; also on Reserve at Smathers Course Reserves]

Week 11: PNG 2 - Fertility, Exchange (and material wealth) and Retribution

Readings:

Trompf, Ch. 2, Melanesian Religion, "Death and After-Life", pp. 34-48; Trompf, Ch. 3, Melanesian Religion, "Logic of Retribution", pp. 51-74;

Film:

"The Red Bowmen", written by Alfred Gell, 1945-1997 and Chris Owen; directed by Chris Owen; produced by Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (Watertown, MA: Documentary Educational Resources (DER), 1983), 58 mins. <https://www.der.org/resources/guides/red-bowmen-study-guide.pdf>

<http://search.alexanderstreet.com.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/view/work/765438>.

(Procedure: Log in to Library EZ Proxy; Smathers Library - Catalog; Enter "The Red Bowmen" in the appropriate space; click on DVDs and videos; enter 'any format'; watch.)

Discussion of Film

Week 12: Conversion to Christianity, Prophetism and 'Cargo Cults'

Readings:

Trompf, Ch. 6, Melanesian Religion, "Coming and Consequences of Missionaries", pp. 141-59;

Trompf, Ch. 8, Melanesian Religion, "Interpretation of Cargo Cults", pp. 188-205.

Videos: New Tribes Mission videos of PNG communities; "Standing on Sacred Ground. Profit and Loss" (on Library EZ Proxy; can be streamed); recent news reports of sorcery killings;

Discussion of Videos and Readings

V. Australian Aboriginal Religious Traditions

Week 13 : The Dreaming Traditions of Australian Aborigines

Readings (Weeks 13-14): G. Trompf, Religions of Oceania, Part 1: "Australia - 1. Tradition; 2. Cults of Intrusion; and 3. Missions, Christianity and Modernity"

Hume, L., "On the Unsafe Side of the White Divide" Anthropology of Consciousness. [pdf on course website]

Week 14(Weeks 13-14): Australian Aboriginal Religious Traditions

Readings: G. Trompf, Religions of Oceania, Part 1: "Australia - 1. Tradition; 2. Cults of Intrusion; and 3. Missions, Christianity and Modernity"

Inaugural Gandhi Oration - Professor Pat Dodson Inaugural Gandhi Oration - Professor Pat Dodson (Excerpt)

Week 15: "Sacred Land" [Thanksgiving holiday]

Video and Discussion: "Standing on Sacred Ground: Islands of Sanctuary" (on Library EZ Proxy; can be streamed);

Week 16: Last Class (Tuesday 12/03): Turn In Final Papers & Discussion

Readings: G. Trompf, Religions of Oceania, Part 2: Pacific Islands - 1.

Course Requirements

The course requirements are:

Do the Readings on time, according to course schedule, and be prepared for **class discussion**; any changes in the readings will be announced in advance on the course Canvas e-learning website; pop-quizzes may be given to determine whether students are keeping up with the Readings **(10%)**;

A **mid-term take-home essay question**, worth **35%** of the final grade;

Two (2) short Reflection Papers (750 words apiece) on films viewed in the course, worth **20%** of final grade. Questions for reflection will be distributed prior to screening;

A **final paper, 8-10 pp. in length, worth 35%** of the final grade; topics to be announced shortly after the mid-terms have been returned, or following discussion with the Professor.

Course Regulations

Plagiarism or cheating: Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment in question and will fail the course. In addition, they will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else's material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm><http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm> for more information on UF policies.

Incompletes are strongly discouraged and will be given only when students who have finished most of the assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final requirements due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete before the end of the semester.

Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only under very special circumstances, such as a medical emergency. In that case, students must bring a doctor's note.

Students engaging in **disruptive behavior** will be asked to leave the classroom. Please turn phones and pagers off during class. Texting and non-class related web activities during class will not be tolerated.

Students with Disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation or special consideration.

Attendance will be taken every class and discussion session; more than three unjustified absences will result in points taken off final grade. All absences should be justified with appropriate documentation. Consistent, late arrivals to class or consistent, early departures from class will also mean points deducted.