This course employs critical theories to examine major forces that have and are impacting on the politics and geopolitics of the Pacific. These include major world powers, globalization, regionalism, political and economic orthodoxies, civil society and cultural traditions.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

1) To develop a critical understanding of factors that have shaped and are shaping the Pacific. In particular, students should gain an understanding of traditional and contemporary political systems and institutions of Pacific island countries and the major transformations they have experienced in becoming nation states and a ‘region’. These factors include colonialism, and in particular the competition between major powers for control of this region, self-determination, regionalism, globalization and the more recent geopolitical struggles between big powers such as the United States and China.

2) To develop a critical understanding of how a number of theoretical frameworks that are central to the political science discipline, in particular ‘critical geopolitics’, can be used to understand the transformative experiences of Pacific island countries. In particular, students will become familiar with theories and key conceptual debates that are pertinent to Pacific island politics and geopolitics, and understand how these frame Pacific island political issues and case studies, and in turn are informed by the latter.

ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment (Individual or group)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late penalties: 5% per day up to a maximum of 5 days. An application for an extension must be submitted at least 2 days before the due date, and must include a medical certificate or other relevant supporting documents. Other grounds for extensions may be considered.

Submission Process and SafeAssign: All written assessments must be submitted as a hardcopy and electronically, via Blackboard (Safeassign), as Word documents, at 12pm on the due date.

Essay:
Students will be given a list of topics from which they are to select one for their essay.

Word limit
3000 words.

Some important points:

Please make sure that you proofread the it carefully checking that each sentence is clear and uses proper grammar. Look at the ‘Online Study Skills’ section of the Student Learning Centre web-site (http://slc.otago.ac.nz/) for advice on essay writing and referencing.

The essay will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
- Clearly state argument
- structure and organization
- analytical development
- relevant research (you should use a range of appropriate sources, including books, articles, internet sources, news sources, and official documents)
- accurate knowledge
- appropriate use of theory (where relevant)
- clarity of style of expression
- correct use and formatting of references and bibliography
- correct grammar and spelling
- keeps to the word limit

Please note the following departmental regulations:

Both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the assignment must be submitted by 12pm on the due date. The hard copy must be deposited in the 300-level essay box outside the corridor to the Political Studies Department (Arts Building, 4th floor, North end). To guard against the possibility of lost or missing papers, students are advised to keep back-up copies of their work.

Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day (10% for a weekend). Late essays must be taken to the Secretary's Office to be dated. Work that is more than one week late without an extension may not be graded.

Extensions will only be granted for serious reasons (in the case of illness, a medical certificate is required). If you need to apply for an extension, please complete the appropriate application form and attach evidence for an extension. These are available from the Department Administration Office. Extension applications must be submitted at least one week before the due date.

You must attach a Plagiarism Declaration to the essay (form is available outside the department office and next to the assignment drop boxes).

Please note the University Statement on Plagiarism:

“Students should make sure that all submitted work is their own. Plagiarism is a form of dishonest practice. Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing another’s work, whether intentionally or otherwise, and presenting it as one’s own (approved University Council, December 2004). In practice this means plagiarism includes any attempt in any piece of submitted work (e.g. an assignment or test) to present as one’s own work the work of another (whether of another student or a published authority). Any student found responsible for plagiarism in any piece of work submitted for assessment shall be subject to the University’s dishonest practice regulations which may result in various penalties, including forfeiture of marks for the piece of work submitted, a zero grade for the paper, or in extreme cases exclusion from the University.”

TEXTS

Readings for this paper are available via commercial sources, but may alternatively be purchased in a collated form via the course reader available from Uniprint. There will also be 2 copies in the Course Reserve, and an electronic copy on Blackboard.

Students must do the ‘Required Reading(s)’. The ‘Recommended Reading(s)’ are optional.
Note: This is provisional and subject to change. Also, some required readings may be posted on Blackboard or given out in class.

**GEOPOLITICS AND CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS**

**Recommended Readings**


**Topic 1. ORIGINS OF NATION-STATES I**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Reading**


Topic 2. ORIGINS OF NATION-STATES II

Required Reading


Hau’Ofa, Epeli. 1994. ‘Our Sea of Islands’. The Contemporary Pacific, Vol. 6, No. 1.(15 pages)

Recommended Reading

Mahina, Okusitino. 1990. “Myths and History: The Tu’iTonga Myths”, in Phyllis Herda, Jennifer Terell and Niel Gunson (editors). Tongan Culture and History: Papers from the 1st Tongan History Conference held in Canberra, 14-17 January 1987. Canberra: Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History, Australian National University. Focus on p.38 (from Reiter’s account of the origin myths) to p.45.


Topic 3. COLONIALISM, NATIONALISM, & NATION STATES

Required Reading


CASE STUDY: HAWAII – THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM (VIDEO: DR. KEANU SAII)

Recommended Readings


**Topic 4. DECOLONIZATION AND NATION-STATES**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Topic 5. DEMOCRACY & TRADITION**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Readings:**


Topic 6. DEMOCRACY & RACE

Required Reading


Recommended Readings:


Topic 7. DEVELOPMENT, UNDERDEVELOPMENT, EXPLOITATION

Required Readings


Recommended Reading


**Topic 8.** A NEW REGIONAL HEGEMON? CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE PACIFIC

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Langdon, Frank C. 1988. ‘Challenges to the United States in the South Pacific’, Pacific Affairs, Vol. 61, No. 1, Spring, pp.7-26

**Topic 9.** REGIONALISM AND GLOBALIZATION

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings:**


### Topic 10. Regional Free Trade: Who is it really good for?

Readings to be supplied.

### Topic 11. Conflicts and Crises: Causes, Trends and Implications

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Reading**
