OVERVIEW

This course is a graduate research seminar that examines and compares contemporary problems of governance and politics in the South Pacific. The focus of the course is on indigenous peoples of the South Pacific struggles for social justice and sovereignty—indigenous rights movements. Central questions addressed in this course include what mechanisms and instruments are used to wrest sovereignty from indigenous peoples in each society? What are the sources, mechanisms, nature and scope of inequality experienced by indigenous peoples in each society? What variables define indigeneity? What is culture? and what roles do notions of culture, ethnicity, race or blood quantum or status as tangata whenua (people of the land) play in seeking and rendering social justice? What strategies do indigenous peoples utilize to reduce or eliminate inequality (secure social justice) in their respective societies and regionally? What remedies does each nation state or government implement to render social justice? What is the incidence of those remedies (who are the targets, who benefits, who pays, and what are the costs)? What key variables determine the success of these implements? What roles do regional politics play in the restoration of sovereignty to indigenous peoples? Who are the regional hegemones and what is the basis for their hegemony? What role does culture play in contemporary governance by indigenous peoples?

The seminar uses a mix of instructional materials including films and videos, guest lectures, field trips as well as regular reading assignments to address these and other questions. Students compare and contrast the histories, processes, and consequences of policies of economic, political and social exclusion (marginalization); processes of political mobilization; and outcomes of struggles for human rights, social justice and inclusion by indigenous peoples of the South Pacific. The primary nation states and societies of interest include Australia, Fiji and New Zealand and, to a lesser extent, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga and/or other Pacific Islands students may choose.

OBJECTIVES

Students will acquire and demonstrate knowledge of contemporary politics and societies in the South Pacific. The course objectives are: (1) to impart knowledge of key issues confronted by indigenous peoples of the region—sovereignty, governance, and social justice; (2) to inform students of the geographic, cultural, demographic, economic, and political characteristics of the region and individual nations-states within the region; (3) to examine, compare and contrast policies of exclusion and their consequences on indigenous peoples and their respective nations; (4) to identify, analyze and compare processes of political mobilization and strategies for seeking redress; and (5) to identify and compare the resultant public policies enacted by national (island) governments to render social justice to indigenous peoples. Thus this course will enhance students’ awareness of issues and problems that confront indigenous peoples in particular nation states, the region and globally. Students will acquire and demonstrate knowledge of contemporary politics and societies in the South Pacific by means of reading assignments, lectures, class discussion, films, and the development of an abstract, annotated bibliography and literature review.
REQUIRED TEXTS

Three texts and a course packet are required reading for this course.


*These two books must be ordered immediately and directly from http://uspbook.securesites.com/store Costs for these books are reduced substantially by ordering from this Univ. of the South Pacific website.

Course Packet. Available at the Howard Copy Center on Georgia Avenue. Includes the following titles:
- Fact sheets on Australia and Fiji.
- Mabo and Wik High Court Decisions.

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Optional.


These two books may be purchased directly from either Amazon.com or BarnesandNobles.com.

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Titles on Reserve in Founders Undergraduate Library

Any of these materials may also be used for the writing assignments:
High Court of Australia. Eddie Mabo and Orgs v. The State of Queensland. 3 June 1993.

Recommended Reading
Brennan, Frank. Legislating Liberty
One Land, One Nation
Reconciling Our Differences
Vakatora, Tomasi R. 1998. From the Mangrove Swamps.
Crocombe, Ron. 1992. Pacific Neighbors: New Zealand’s relations with other Pacific Islands

Films/Videos
Utu. New Zealand
Fringe Dwellers. Australia
How the West was Lost. Australia
Lousy Little Sixpence. Australia
Rabbit Proof Fence. Australia
Stolen Generations. Australia
Cowboy and Maria in Town. Papua New Guinea
Since the Company Came. Solomon Islands

Other Sources and Materials
Students are encouraged to visit the Australia - New Zealand Studies Center at Georgetown University and the Lowenger Library at Georgetown University. Lowenger has an extensive collection on the South Pacific. To borrow from Lowenger, students must obtain an authorization form from the Howard University Graduate School or Founders Library.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND COURSE GRADING

This course is an independent research seminar. Students will be given released time from several class sessions to conduct research. Therefore students must attend all regularly scheduled class sessions and read all assignments prior to each class. Class sessions will open with a STUDENT LEAD discussion of the current reading assignment.

Student performance will be assessed on the basis of three cumulative writing assignments: abstract, annotated bibliography, and literature review. The learning objective is to train students in thesis research. The abstract is a 100 to 150 word description of the student’s fundamental theoretical construct. The abstract includes a model statement that identifies causal relationships, directionality and their strength. The abstract also must identify the central questions, key variables and hypotheses, and methodology for testing/falsifying the causality. The annotated bibliography is a bibliography that gives a brief summary (100-250 words) of relevant research from primary and secondary sources. The literature review is a 20 to 30 page paper that chronologically and theoretically examines and summarizes the state of existing primary scholarly research that underpins and pertains to (supports and controverts) the student’s fundamental thesis.

Abstract 100 points @ 20%
Annotated Bibliography 100 points @ 40%
Literature Review 200 points @ 40%
Total Possible Points = 140

Students must meet with the instructor to identify and discuss a research topic.

THIS IS MEANT TO BE A CHALLENGING COURSE as well as a memorable and fun one. This course challenges and encourages each student to think, process information, analyze concepts, and formulate arguments. The simple regurgitation of material, no matter how precise, is not sufficient for a grade better than passing--C. The grading system is not amenable to curve, compromise, or plea bargaining. To earn grades of B and better, students must be thoroughly knowledgeable of all assigned materials (reading all materials more than once), participate actively and intelligently (cross referencing arguments--citing concepts, positions, and authorship to support propositions or questions), and accumulate a minimum total of 108 points at the conclusion of the course (where 109-127 points = B and 128-140 points = A). Students who accumulate a total of 108-86 points will earn the grade of C, 85-70 points a D, and 69 or fewer points F.

NOTE: THE DUE DATES FOR ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THIS SYLLABUS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY, YOU MUST ATTEND CLASS AND SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS ON THESE DATES. PAPERS MAY BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DUE DATES BUT NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS BY THE SPECIFIED DUE DATES HEREIN EARN 0 POINTS FOR THE ACTIVITY.

Grades of Incomplete will be given only when legitimate reasons exist and they also require an "incomplete contract", in accordance with University policy.
ASSIGNMENTS

This is an independent research course on indigenous politics. Students are to read all materials as assigned and meet only on the days indicated as “Class Discussion.”

Unit I  Indigenous Politics of the Pacific  


Jan. 25  Reading Day - NO CLASS. Secure all course materials! Catch up on reading assignments.

Unit II  Settlement Processes and Indigenous Peoples  


Unit III  Indigeneity and Indigenous Rights  
Feb. 15  Class Discussion Havemann, p. 183-282.

Feb. 22  Research and Reading Day – NO CLASS  
Culture and Democracy. All.

Mar. 1  Due Abstract  
Class Discussion Culture and Democracy.

Unit IV  Pacific Nations in Comparative Perspective: Australia, Fiji and New Zealand  
Mar. 8  Havemann, p. 401-428 and 447-475. Film: Rabbit Proof Fence

Mar. 11-19  Spring Break

Mar. 29  Due Annotated Bibliography  


Unit V  Indigenous Rights and political participation.  
Apr. 19  Class Discussion Course Wrap up

Apr. 26  Due by 12p.m. SHARP!!!  
Literature Review