



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

VA'AOMANŪ PASIFIKA

PACIFIC STUDIES

PASI 489

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 +2 2014

Important dates

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 17 October 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Weds 9am – 10.50am, MY631

(Murphy Lecture Theatre Room 631.)

Names and contact details

Coordinator: Dr Teresia Teaiwa	Administrator: Sylvietta Hanipale
Room 202, 6 Kelburn Parade	Room 101, 6 Kelburn Parade
Ph: 04 463 - 5110	Ph: 04 463 - 5830
E: teresia.teaiwa@vuw.ac.nz	E: sylvietta.hanipale@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hrs: Please see your assigned supervisor for all queries.	Office Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm

Communication of additional information

Any additional information or changes will be conveyed via class noticeboards located at 6 Kelburn Parade, Blackboard, and in supervision meetings. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

A directed reading and independent research course emphasising comparative analysis along inter-ethnic, cross-cultural and/or international lines. Expected output is a 10,000-12,000 word essay.

Course content

Talofa lava, Kia orana katoatoa, Malo e lelei, Bula vinaka, Namaste, Fakaalofa atu, Taloha ni, Halo olketa, Kam na mauri, Aloha kākou, Tena koutou katoa!

By focusing on comparative research this course distinguishes the BA Honours programme in Pacific Studies at Victoria from other Pacific Studies programmes in New Zealand and the world. This course offers students the opportunity to explore the limits and possibilities of comparative analysis in Pacific Studies by carefully considering what makes two cases comparable, honing in on the specificities of each case, as well as extrapolating what is generalisable about them. In particular, the course allows students to refine skills of identifying an original interdisciplinary topic for comparative research in Pacific Studies; developing a proposal for literature-based research; reviewing and analysing relevant bodies of literature; and synthesising findings in a coherent extended essay. It is important that students in 489 are prepared to work independently as well as with the guidance of their assigned supervisor to agreed upon deadlines. Where ethics approval is necessary Victoria guidelines must be followed and Ethics Committee approval sought.

The weekly classes scheduled for this course are intended to supplement meetings with the students' respective assigned supervisors. Weekly classes are **not** a substitute for regular meetings with students' assigned supervisors.

Weekly classes for PASI 489 serve the purpose of supporting and advancing students' work for this course. The weekly classes provide a structured opportunity for students to complete reading or writing that has been required of them by their respective supervisors.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Both verbally and in writing for their final essay, students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Explain the rationale for undertaking comparative research in Pacific Studies;
2. Formulate and justify a topic for comparative research in Pacific Studies;
3. Identify, synthesise and analyse relevant literature for informing their topic of comparative research;
4. Articulate a considered evaluation of the limits and possibilities for comparative analysis specifically in relation to their topic, and more generally in relation to the field of Pacific Studies.

Teaching format

This course combines individual supervised research with classes that can be thought of as group workshops. Each student will be assigned a supervisor to work with, but is also required to attend facilitated and timetabled classes with other 489 students.

Mandatory course requirements

Students enrolled in the research course in Pacific Studies are expected to meet fortnightly with their supervisor. In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attend no less than 80% of independently scheduled meetings with your assigned supervisor
2. attend no less than 75% of timetabled class sessions
3. submit a written proposal to assigned supervisor for approval by advertised deadline
4. submit a minimum of two (2) draft essays to assigned supervisor by agreed upon deadlines
5. submit final proofread essay to supervisor by advertised deadline

Workload

The workload for PASI 489 is consistent with other programmes within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for a 30 point course. You are expected to allow on average around 300 hours over the duration of the course for reading, revision, assessment and generally engaging with the material for this course.

Assessment

Students interested in enrolling in the research course (PASI 489) must first gain approval from the Pacific Studies Honours coordinator and the proposed research supervisor. This course is 100% internally assessed. Students must submit all written work via Bb by the agreed upon or advertised deadlines for their respective supervisors to assess. Weekly classes provide students with the opportunity to work on reading and writing that will be assessed by their supervisors. Weekly classes are intended to support students towards meeting their assessment deadlines.

Please note that the Course Coordinator will not comment on the substance or approach taken in individual students' work, but will provide a written evaluation of each student's attendance and performance in classes at the end of the 24 weeks. **A student's assigned supervisor is the authoritative source for feedback on the student's work.** Once the student's supervisor has independently assessed the final essay, the PASI 489 Course Coordinator's evaluation will be submitted alongside the supervisor's report for consideration during external assessment. An external assessor will be appointed to moderate the grading for each major research paper produced in PASI 489.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Final Draft Essay, 10000-12000 words maximum	100%	1-4	15 Oct

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted to assigned supervisors by advertised or agreed upon deadlines. Supervisors undertake to provide feedback to students on their written work in a timely manner.

Extensions and penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Samoan Studies and Pacific Studies undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty, except when accompanied by a medical certificate or evidence of other exceptional circumstances. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late.

For more information about circumstances warranting extensions, refer to the section on extensions in the Victoria University Assessment Handbook.

Set texts

--Please refer to required and recommended readings in the Comparative Analysis module in PASI 401 Theory and Method in Pacific Studies. These readings constitute a useful starting point for PASI 489.

--Additional recommended readings will be posted on Blackboard for students to print and read. Any readings recommended to students by their individual supervisors should be treated as required reading.

--Closed Reserve and 3-Day Loan: key texts will be placed on Closed Reserve or 3-Day Loan in the Central Library for your reference and further reading.

--A Blackboard (Bb) site will be available for this course. It will be used for post class notices and marking matrices, posting recommended readings and sharing work such as bibliographies and/or proposal and essay drafts and peer review comments. Bb may also be used for an on-line discussion forum.

Note: as postgraduate students, you need to be keeping up with the latest scholarship in our field. Current issues of scholarly journals like *The Contemporary Pacific*, *The Journal of Pacific History*, and *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, *Oceania* and *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* are freely available to you on-line via our VUW Library website: <http://gx4ej7nu5f.search.serialssolutions.com/>

Recommended reading

All PASI 489 students are encouraged to read previous PASI 489 essays. A selection of these will be posted to Bb with the consent of the authors.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz