

Film 140: World Cinema-Pacific Islander Cinema  
Spring 2016 / (MF 11-12; W 11-1) Rm 10-193  
Instructor: Ursula Ann Siataga  
office: building 15, room 156 / hours: Wed 2-3 PM, and by appt.  
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Course website: smccd.mrooms.net (log-in with G#; six-digit birthdate as password)

Required readings: selected articles/essays posted to the course website and/or handouts in class.

#### Course description and objectives

This course will survey and investigate a very partial sampling of purposefully selected films made about Pacific Islanders in the islands and in the diaspora. On the one hand, we will be exploring the past, present, and future of Pacific Islander stories being told through visual narratives. We will take account of our own US perspective on these films. In more cinematic terms, we will gain an appreciation of several different national film styles from the Pacific, as well as how these differ from, and relate to, the global dominant influence of Hollywood, and contemporary issues Pacific Island communities face today.

Completing this course successfully will require your rigorous attention and active participation: the overall objective of the course is to enhance your media literacy and critical thinking skills. The Student Learning Outcomes for this course are that, after completion, you are able to

- 1) distinguish and apply critical categories in the study of Pacific Islander cinema
- 2) identify key films and directors of a variety of contemporary Pacific Islander films
- 3) critically articulate the relationship between film art and Pacific Islander cinema

#### Coursework and grading policy

The work for this course includes a take-home midterm (30%), a final exam (30%), reading, quizzes and worksheets (20%) and participation (20%). Details of these assignments will be forthcoming.

NOTE: Some of the material viewed in class may contain disturbing content (language and/or imagery). If any student would like to discuss this aspect of the class it is your responsibility to contact me. I will make every effort to accommodate special needs.

EMAIL: You need to have a reliable email address. You should all be using your my.smccd accounts. I will be corresponding with the class via email, and I do encourage you to email me with questions and comments.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) All course work must be completed to pass this course.
- 2) Please keep all graded work until after you receive your final grade.
- 3) Dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the college is prohibited and will lead to appropriate disciplinary action.
- 4) Three or more unexcused absences will bring down participation grade (thus overall grade), and may result in student being dropped (arriving late or leaving early counts as half an absence).
- 5) Late work will be graded down one full grade for each day late.
- 6) Electronic devices should off/vibrate please, during class.
- 7) Expected to be seated & ready to engage at the beginning of class

#### Disability Policy Statement

If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for this class, please advise me as soon as possible, and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for assistance. The DRC is located in Bldg. 10, Room 120 / (650) 574-6432.

**H** = Hand-out in class  
**X** = essay/article posted on the web site

Date	Topics/Screening	Readings
Wk 0.5: 1/20	Introduction to Course	[H] Syllabus
Wk 1: 1/25	(cont.) Hollywood Style Films <i>Once were Warriors</i> . Dir. Lee Tamahori, 1994. Drama (1hr. 43mins)*	[H] [X]
Wk 2: 2/1	1920s: <i>Moana: A Romance of the South Seas</i> . Dir. Robert Flaherty, 1926. Silent Film. (66mins)	
Wk 3: 2/8	1950s-60s: <i>Return to Paradise</i> . Dir. Mark Robson, 1953. Drama. (1hr. 40mins)* <b>Friday 2/12 No Class President's Day Holiday Weekend</b>	[X] [H]
Wk 4: 2/17	<i>Omai Fa'atasi</i> . Dir. Takashi Fujii, 1974. Documentary (30mins) <i>Polynesian Panthers</i> . Dir. Nevak 'Iolalia, 2010. Documentary (1hr) <b>Monday 2/15 No Class President's Day Holiday Weekend</b>	[H]
Wk 5: 2/22	1980s-90s: <i>Utū</i> . Dir. Geoff Murphy, 1983. Drama/History. (1hr. 58mins)	[X]
Wk 6: 2/29	In Education: <i>Margaret Mead and Samoa</i> . Dir. Frank Heimans, 1988. (51mins)* <b>Friday 3/4 No Class Flex Day</b>	[H] [X] [X]
Wk 7: 3/7	<i>The Tattooist</i> . Dir. Peter Burger, 2007. Thriller/Horror (1hr. 32mins)*	
Wk 8: 3/14	<i>Paradise Bent</i> . Dir. Heather Croall, 1999. Documentary (50mins) <i>Queendom of Tonga</i> . Dir. Brian Favorite, 2015. Documentary (50mins)	[X]
Wk 9: 3/21	Directors: Takapu-Malele & Ve'evalu & Siataga <b>MIDTERM HAND-OUT</b>	[H]
Wk 10: 3/28	Bay Area Pacific Islander Digital Stories, 2013 & 2015.	
3/28-4/2	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Wk 11: 4/4	Social Movements: <i>Warriors Born: American Samoans in the U.S. Military</i> . Dir. Rachel Kahn Taylor, 2010. Doc. (23mins)* <i>Act of War</i> . Dir. Puhipau, Joan Lander. Na Maka o Ka 'Aina, 1993. Documentary (58mins) <b>MIDTERM DUE</b>	
Wk 12: 4/11	<i>Boy</i> . Dir. Taika Waititi, 2010. Comedy/Drama (1hr 30mins)*	[X]
Wk 13: 4/18	<i>My Crasy Life</i> . Dir. Jean-Pierre-Gorin, 1999. (1hr 35mins)*	[X]
Wk 14: 4/25 *4/30 Extra Credit Opportunity-Film Festivals	<i>The Dark Horse</i> . Dir. James Napier Robertson, 2014. Drama (2hrs 5mins)	[X]
Wk 15: 5/2	<i>The Deadlands</i> . Dir. Toa Fraser, 2014. Action (1hr. 48mins)*	[X]

Wk 16: 5/9 *ThuleTuvalu*. Dir. Matthias von Gunten, 2014. Documentary (1hr 38mins)

[X]

Wk 17: 5/16 *Taualuga*. Dir. Lisa Taouma, 2014. Documentary (41mins)\*

Wk 18: 5/23 **FINAL EXAM**

### Selected Pacific Islander Feature Films:

1920s:

*Moana: A Romance of the South Seas*. Dir. Robert Flaherty, 1926. Silent Film. (66mins)

1950s-60s:

*Return to Paradise*. Dir. Mark Robson, 1953. Drama. (1hr. 40mins)\*

*Blue Hawaii*. Dir. Norman Taurog, 1961. Comedy/Romance. (1hr. 42mins)

*Hawaii* 1966. Dir. George Roy Hill, 1966. Drama film/Epic film (3hr. 9mins)

1980s-90s:

*Utū*. Dir. Geoff Murphy, 1983. Drama/History. (1hr. 58mins)

*Emma: Queen of the South Seas*. Dir. John Banas, 1988. Docudrama/Biography. (3hrs. 13mins)

*Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree*. Dir. Martyn Sanderson/Albert Wendt, 1990. Drama. (90mins)

*The Piano*. Dir. Jane Campion, 1993. Drama/Romance. (2hrs.)

*Once were Warriors*. Dir. Lee Tamahori, 1994. Drama (1hr. 43mins)\*

*Tuvalu*. Dir. Veit Helmer, 1999. Drama/Romance (1hr. 47mins)\*

*Beyond Paradise*. Dir. David L. Cunningham, 1998. Drama (1hr. 45mins)

2000-09:

*The Other Side of Heaven*. Dir. Mitch Davis, 2001. Drama/Biography (1hr. 53mins)

*Lilo & Stitch*. Dir. Chris Sanders, Dean DeBlois, 2002. Science Fiction/Adventure (1hr. 25mins)

*Whalerider*. Dir. Niki Caro, 2002. Drama/Family (1hr 41mins)

*The Legend of Johnny Lingo*. Dir. Steven Ramirez, 2003. Adventure/Family (1hr. 31mins)

*Samoan Wedding*. Dir. Chris Graham, 2006. Romance/World Cinema (1hr. 37mins)

*The Tattooist*. Dir. Peter Burger, 2007. Thriller/Horror (1hr. 32mins)\*

2010-15:

*Boy*. Dir. Taika Waititi, 2010. Comedy/Drama (1hr 30mins)\*

*The Orator/O le Tulafale*. Dir. Tusi Tamasese, 2011. Drama (1hr 50mins)

*The Deadlands*. Dir. Toa Fraser, 2014. Action (1hr. 48mins)\*

*The Dark Horse*. Dir. James Napier Robertson, 2014. Drama (2hrs 5mins)

*Tanna*. Dir. Martin Butler, Bently, 2015. Drama/Romance (1hr 40mins)

### Selected Documentary Films by Topic:

Gender & Sexuality:

*Queendom of Tonga*. Dir. Brian Favorite, 2015. Documentary (50mins)

*Kumu Hina*. Dir. Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, 2014. Biography (1hr. 17mins)

*Paradise Bent*. Dir. Heather Croall, 1999. Documentary (50mins)

Health/Wellness:

Bay Area Pacific Islander Digital Stories, 2013 & 2015.

Higher Education:

Mt. Sac Student Digital Stories, 2015.

*Tongan Ark*. Dir. Paul Janman, 2012. (60mins)

*Margaret Mead and Samoa*. Dir. Frank Heimans, 1988. (51mins)\*

*Pacific Islanders in Higher Education*. Dir. Dannyboy Ve'evalu. 2013. (16mins)

Environment/Urban Life:

Looking South Across the Oceans.

*Le Afi Ua Mu*. Dir. Shane Seggar, 2008. Documentary (1hr)

*ThuleTuvalu*. Dir. Matthias von Gunten, 2014. Documentary (1hr 38mins)

*My Crasy Life*. Dir. Jean-Pierre-Gorin, 1999. (1hr 35mins)\*

Social Movements:

*Act of War*. Dir. Puhipau, Joan Lander. Na Maka o Ka 'Aina, 1993. Documentary (58mins)

*Hawai'i Last Queen*. Dir. Vivian Ducat, 1997. Documentary (60mins)

*Warriors Born: American Samoans in the U.S. Military*. Dir. Rachel Kahn Taylor, 2010. Doc. (23mins)\*

*Polynesian Panthers*. Dir. Nevak 'Iolahia, 2010. Documentary (1hr)

*Omai Fa'atasi*. Dir. Takashi Fujii, 1974. Documentary (30mins)

Culture/Identity:

*Sione's Journey*. Dir. Folola Malele, 2006. Documentary (20mins)  
*My Fa'aSamoa*. Dir. Ursula Ann Siataga, 2011. Documentary (26mins)  
*Kava-The drink of the gods*. Dir. Thorolf Lipp, 1998. Documentary (1hr 30mins)\*  
*Taualuga*. Dir. Lisa Taouma, 2014. Documentary (41mins)\*

Sports:

*In Football we Trust*. Dir. Tony Vainuku & Erika Cohn, 2015. Documentary (1hr 27mins)  
*Next Goal Wins*. Dir. Mike Brett & Steve Jamison, 2014. Documentary (1hr 37mins)  
*Pacific Warriors*. Dir. James Marquand, 2015. Documentary(1hr 33mins)