Geography of Hawai‘i

Aloha! The objective of this course is to increase and enhance our knowledge of the multiple geographies of Ka Pae ‘Āina O Hawai‘i, and to allow us to forge an even closer relationship with the island chain and its diverse communities, some familiar and some strange. The knowledge that we gain should ultimately provide benefit to Hawai‘i nei. We’ll investigate different environments of Hawai‘i: physical, biotic, demographic, cultural and socio-economic. These include a look at volcanism, climatic diversity, water features, vegetation, ecosystems, global warming impacts, population and settlement patterns, cultural expression, place names, politics and land, and more. Most importantly, we’ll come to an even better understanding about the interrelationship and inseparability of these environments and their components from one another. We’ll reflect on our own relationship with place, share thoughts with each other, and make a contribution to the well-being of Hawai‘i. We’ll accomplish these lofty goals through lectures, discussions and class activities, online quizzes, projects, and an excursion (of your choice) to powerful places on Hawai‘i Island.

Mai ka hikina a ka lā i Kumukahi a ka welona a ka lā i Lehua
From the sunrise at Kumukahi to the fading light at Lehua
Our Kuleana
In this course we work collaboratively, so that we all have an important role in sharing our knowledge of the Hawaiian Islands – knowledge we have acquired from our exposure to information and from personal experience.

My Contributions
I introduce each geographic topic through electronic slideshow lectures synchronized with the optional text *Atlas of Hawai‘i*, and initiate class discussions and activities. I encourage students to strengthen environmental kinship through an excursion including environmental community service, and consideration of cultural significance of environmental elements.

I would also like to facilitate the following processes for each of you:
- Elevate geographic literacy;
- Develop and perpetuate an appreciation and respect for places;
- Create relationships with other classmates;
- Enhance your own personal style of communication;
- Contribute to environmental well-being through your actions.

Course Enhancement through Uluākea & Ha‘akūmalae
This course has been enhanced as a part of the Uluākea project administered by Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center. The project's primary goal is to develop the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo into a Hawaiian place of learning. As a part of this project, this course incorporates experiences and resources for the development of Hawai‘i learning processes at UH-Hilo. My participation in the Ha‘akūmalae Protocols Program at Hawai‘i Community College delivered by I Ola Hāloa has likewise helped to enhance this course.

Student Learning Outcomes for Geography of Hawai‘i
- Identify and describe environmental-cultural characteristics of the Hawaiian Islands;
- Attain competency in geography’s key concepts and tools;
- Analyze geographic information and develop research abilities through written and visual work, group discussions, and quiz-taking.

Optional Textbook(s) and Other Resources
- The invaluable book *Place Names of Hawai‘i* by Mary Kawena Pukui *et al* is optional for this class. It will help in two ways: to provide the meanings of Hawaiian place names as translated into English, and as a guide to proper spelling of those place names;
- I maintain a website that also has class materials, including helpful Hawai‘i-focused links. Check it out and use it as a resource: [http://www2.hawaii.edu/~dkapp](http://www2.hawaii.edu/~dkapp)

Participation (about 30 classes, totaling 30% of your course grade)
Commit to our class by actively participating in every one of class sessions, contributing to a supportive and respectful community of learners.
Huaka‘i/Honua Ola Environmental Community Service Project (1, 10% of your course grade)

- Please be an active and respectful participant in a huaka‘i (excursion) that includes a service project aimed at restoring or improving environmental well-being within a given community. We'll become more deeply acquainted with special places on Hawai‘i Island.
- I’ll arrange Saturday huaka‘i to many different Hawai‘i Island sites in all moku (districts), and will provide transportation between Hilo and each location. Use the online link I’ll provide to sign up for and commit to your one huaka‘i at the beginning of the semester;
- To promote bridging between Hawai‘i Community College and UH-Hilo, huaka‘i participants will be drawn from both campuses.

Quizzes (5 of them, 30% of your course grade)

- Please take five (5) non-cumulative timed quizzes online;
- I’ll work with you to ensure that you have access to a campus computer, if necessary;
- Questions relate to class lectures and activities. The questions are in a variety of formats: multiple choice, landscape and map identification, mini-essays;
- I’ll distribute, and post study guides on our website one week before each quiz;
- You’ll have a school week (5 days) in which to complete each 60-minute quiz; each opens at sunrise at the start of each period, and closes at sunset at the end of each period;
- Make a pledge to avoid dishonest practices while taking these quizzes. When taking each one, you must rely exclusively upon your own internal resources, and cannot use books, notes, the Internet, other people, etc.

GeoProjects (3 of them, 30% of your course grade)

- Please create three (3) research projects that will enhance your knowledge of different geographic issues and places throughout the islands;
- Each GeoProject taps your personal and newly-acquired knowledge about culture, environment, place, as well as your critical abilities, creativity and organization;
- Each GeoProject has a different format: research essay, short story, and poster;
- The first 2 GeoProjects focus on a different contemporary issue in a different location;
- The last GeoProject explores your personal response to your huaka‘i;
- Each GeoProject must be personalized and in your own words and unique style;
- Since Hawaiian is an official state language, and Pidgin is a legitimate and widely-used language, I invite you to use English, Hawaiian, and/or Pidgin in your GeoProjects. In writing any Hawaiian words, especially place names, please use ‘okina & kahakō;
- The first two GeoProjects may be submitted online via Laulima;
- Details about each GeoProject are posted on our course website;
- You’ll be sharing your GeoProjects with classmates, so be sure you are proud of your work!

Evaluation

Participation = 30%, Huaka‘i/Honua Ola = 10%, Quizzes = 30%, GeoProjects = 30%
Course Grade: A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F<60%

Special Student Services

Any student with a documented disability requesting accommodation should contact the Ha‘awi Kōkua Program, building 379 Manono Campus, 974-7741 [TTY].
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Course Topics</th>
<th>Special Activities &amp; Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We begin this semester in the season of Kau wela – the warmer, drier season for most of Hawaiʻi. We’re in the final days of the Hawaiʻi lunar month of Hilinaehu (sometimes called Mahoe Mua, the first twin) a month with changeable weather conditions with plenty of sun, tradewinds, and rain showers. It can be the hottest month of the year on Hawaiʻi Island, and represents part of the height of the hurricane season for the Central Pacific.</td>
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<td>Week of Aug 22</td>
<td>Introductions / No hea mai ‘oe? Geography</td>
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<td>Around August 28 we enter the Hawaiʻi month of Hilinamā (sometimes called Mahoe Hope, the twin that comes after) begins. Weather conditions largely mirror those of the preceding month, Hilinaehu (Mahoe Mua), but rains may be more frequent. The height of hurricane season continues, so alertness is called for. This month includes the autumnal equinox, and the sun rises due east and sets due west.</td>
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<td>Week of Aug 29</td>
<td>Ka Pae ʻĀina, Maps, Place Names</td>
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<td>Week of Sept 5</td>
<td>Geology, Pele</td>
<td>Sept 5 (Mon): Holiday</td>
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<td>Quiz 1 due by sunset Sept 9</td>
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<td>Week of Sept 12</td>
<td>Volcanoes, Earthquakes</td>
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<td>Week of Sept 19</td>
<td>Tsunami, Ocean, Sea Level Rise</td>
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<td>ʻIkuwā or ʻIkuā begins around September 27. As its name suggests, this dynamic month is usually characterized by the tremendous sounds of storms: heavy rain, strong accompanying winds, even thunder and lightning, and high surf. Some people consider this the start of the rainy season or ‘winter.’ Still in hurricane season.</td>
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<td>Week of Sept 26</td>
<td>Fresh Water</td>
<td>Quiz 2 due by sunset Sept 30</td>
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<td>Week of Oct 3</td>
<td>Climate, Hurricanes &amp; Change</td>
<td>GeoEssay due by sunset Oct 7</td>
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<td>Week of Oct 10</td>
<td>Ecosystems</td>
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<td>Week of Oct 17</td>
<td>Biogeography, Plants, Animals</td>
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<td>Around October 26 Welehu commences. For many, this is the first month of of Hoʻoilo, the wet season for most of Hawaiʻi (except Kona, Hawaiʻi). It’s a time when southerly or Kona storms can begin to impact the islands bringing strong winds and heavy rains. Hurricane season winds down. It’s a time to celebrate Makahiki, a part of the year dedicated to Lono, agricultural fertility, peace, games, and more.</td>
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<td>Week of Oct 24</td>
<td>Settlement, Population</td>
<td>Quiz 3 due by sunset Oct 28</td>
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<td>Week of Oct 31</td>
<td>Ethnicity, Cultural Landscape</td>
<td>GeoStory due by sunset Nov 4</td>
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<td>Week of Nov 7</td>
<td>Language, Spirituality</td>
<td>Nov 11 (Fri): Holiday</td>
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<td>Week of Nov 14</td>
<td>Land Tenure, Urbanization</td>
<td>Quiz 4 due by sunset Nov 18</td>
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<td>Week of Nov 21</td>
<td>Economy, Agriculture, Tourism</td>
<td>Nov 24-25 (Thurs-Fri): Holiday</td>
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<td>The last Hawaiian month is Makaliʻi, beginning around November 25. The name of this month could reference the shoots (‘little eyes’) of tubers or a famous Pacific navigator. It is the name of the the star constellation Pleiades. Like Welehu, this is another rainy month with occasional Kona winds. The Makahiki period continues. Great whales begin to repopulate the waters of Hawaiʻi. It is a fine month in which to end our class together.</td>
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<td>Week of Nov 28</td>
<td>Societal Well-Being</td>
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<td>Week of Dec 5</td>
<td>GeoScape due in class Dec 5, Evaluations, Mokuola Reflection on Dec 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Dec 12</td>
<td>‘Finals Week’</td>
<td>Quiz 5 due by sunset Dec 15</td>
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Online Components of GEOG 122 via Laulima courseware

To take Quizzes and submit your first two GeoProjects, please log into Laulima laulima.hawaii.edu and navigate to our course tab GEOG-122-0.

Quizzes

- Click on the Quizzes link on the Menu bar of the left-hand side of our course homepage;
- Each of our five Quizzes opens when the sun rises at Kumukahi in Puna, the easternmost point of Ka Pae ʻĀina O Hawaiʻi at the beginning of that school week (Mondays). They close at the end of that school week (Fridays) when the sun sets at Lehua, an islet at the tip of Niihau, the westernmost major Hawaiian island; (see the ‘ōlelo noʻeau on the first page of this syllabus);

GeoProjects

- Click on the GeoProjects link on our course homepage Menu bar;
- There you’ll find GeoProject descriptions;
- Your may submit your first two GeoProjects as attachments using that link;
- If you submit your first two GeoProjects online, you’ll be able to see your grade for each one there online.

Announcements

- On our course homepage you’ll see a list of the Announcements I send to class occasionally;
- These Announcements also go out to your UH email;
- They usually serve as reminders for upcoming activities and important tasks.

Syllabus

- Click on the Syllabus link on our course homepage menu bar to find this syllabus!

ʻōlelo noʻeau compiled by Mary Kawena Pukui

Syllabus images of:

Alaka'i, ʻĀlau from Nā iwi a Pele, Kalaemanō, Kaloko, Kaniakapūpū, Kauhakō at Kalaupapa, Mākua from Kaʻala, Mauna a Wākea, Maunaloa from Kīlauea, Puʻuhonua O Hōnaunau, Puʻuloa, Puʻumoaʻulaiki

Can you identify these special places?

I hope you enjoy this course -Drew