



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**VA'AOMANŪ PASIFIKA
PACIFIC STUDIES**

**PASI 489
COMPARATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT
30 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 + 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 16 October 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 30 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17-20 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Weekly supervision and coordinated fortnightly meeting times and locations are to be arranged between supervisors, course coordinator and students during Week 1 of Tri 1.

Names and contact details

Coordinator: Dr April Henderson	Administrator: Melissa Fiu
Room 201, 6 Kelburn Parade	Room 101, 6 Kelburn Parade
Ph: 04 463 5829	Ph: 04 463 5830
E: april.henderson@vuw.ac.nz	E: melissa.fiu@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hrs: By appointment	Office Hrs: Mon to Fri 9am – 3pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated in lectures and on Blackboard. 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!

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.

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

Students enrolled in the research course in Pacific Studies are expected to meet fortnightly with their supervisor.

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

This course is 100% internally assessed. 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	16 Oct

Marking criteria for the final essay will be made available on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted to Course Coordinator/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

Extensions

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

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.

Set texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course.

--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 posting 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 Victoria 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.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course.

Student feedback

Because of the small enrolments in this course, anonymity cannot be guaranteed, so no formal evaluations have taken place for this course. Student feedback on other 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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz