

## **BOT 105/HWST 105= Mea Kanu: Hawaiian Plants & Their Uses**

*(Fall Semester 2006)*

**Instructor:** J. Kimo Alama Keaulana

**Meetings:** T & Th 8:30-9:45 AM

**Building/Room:** Bldg. 7/Room 535A

**Course Codes:** 21696 (BOT)  
21358 (HWST)

**Office:** Bldg. 7/Room 517

**Office Hours:** M-Th 8:00-8:30 AM &  
11:00- 11:30 AM  
*or by appointment*

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### **Course Descriptors**

**Course Description:** This course explores the cultural uses of plants by humans in the Hawaiian archipelago and elsewhere in Polynesia. Focus will be upon those plants that were originally found in Hawai'i when early settlers came and those plants that were brought by them.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 20B&C&D&E or ESL 11&13&17 or placement in ENG 22/60

**Credit Hours:** 3 (lecture)

**Text:** *Plants in the Hawaiian Culture* by Beatrice Krauss

**Objectives:** By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- explain the various methods of plant and animal dispersal and distribution throughout the Hawaiian archipelago;
- define "endemic" and "indigenous" and the plants that fall into these categories;
- identify selected plants by their common and Hawaiian names;
- describe the importance and processes of various plants and their roles in the Hawaiian culture; and,
- relate the geology and geography of Hawai'i to its unique plant and animal life in comparison to other places on Earth.

## Course Requirements

In order for each student to be successful in this course and other courses as well, there are some very basic and necessary requirements to adhere to:

- **Attend every class meeting and be in class on time.** Students who are inconsistent with attendance normally do not do well in any course. There will be a lot of material and/or experiences that will be presented in class that you will not be able to get out of a text alone.
- **Complete all of your work to the best of your ability.** All tests and augmented work will involve a lot of writing. All students should be able to write in essay form competently (note the ENG prerequisite).
- **Do not be a passive learner.** Get involved and take an interest in your education. Should you have a question, please ask. Should you have something to share, please share it. Please do not be afraid to ask a question because you may be ashamed to ask or that others might think that you are stupid. "There is no such thing as a stupid question" which is true (unless it was answered just prior to your question).

## Self-Direction

Functioning in any situation with other people is important. Courteous observances in the classroom are vital and many should be common sense.

- **Turn off all beepers, cell phones, pagers and other things that will potentially make a sound and disrupt class.** This should be basic courtesy wherever you go and no one else needs to be distracted. In the case of an emergency situation, you may need the use of a pager or cell phone turned on but please let the instructor know before class begins. Organize your life so that personal pursuits do not conflict with educational ones.
- **Come to class on time.** Coming into class late is a distraction in itself. We all have to fight traffic, look for parking, etc. so if you know that you must do these tasks, just do it!
- **Come to class prepared.** Bring all of your necessary materials and work to class. It is not necessary to bring your textbook because the material in the text is supplementary to in-class presentations. When you bring yourself to class, make sure that your mind is functioning and prepared too!
- **Read through, understand and know the Student Code of Conduct.** It is extremely important that all students thoroughly understand that it is the students' responsibility to conduct themselves responsibly on campus.

## Grading Policy

All graded work is graded on a standard percentage scale. There is no point system in this class. To find your average at any given time, simply add up all of your percentage scores and divide them by the total amount of given graded assignments. Any missing graded assignment is given a 0% which converts to an F. The standard scale is as follows:

100-90%= A

89-80%= B

79-70%= C

69-60%= D

59-00%= F

No **N** or **I** grades will be given unless there is substantial documentation to warrant such a grade. These would include a doctor's or a dentist's note, a hospitalization release, military orders or jury duty orders or any other substantial form of documentation.

- **Make-up work.** To be fair with all students, graded make-up work can only be given if the absence and/or tardy is an excused one (*refer to the documentation list above but add obituary notice of a family member*) **and** the work was not passed back to the class (*i.e., returned to students*). You have the equivalent amount of days as your absence/tardy to do the make-up work outside of class (*i.e., not during class time*).
- **Exam/Test dates.** These will be announced in class prior to the exam/test.

## **BOT 105/HWST 105 Course Syllabus**

*(Subject to Change Without Notice)*

August 21-25: Course and textbook orientation. Geology and geography of the Pacific, especially Hawai'i, will be discussed.

August 28-September 1: Migration of peoples into the Pacific focusing on Polynesia and Hawai'i. This complements the *Introduction* of the textbook.

September 4-8: Hawaiian ecological systems from a Hawaiian standpoint and how humans interacted with the physical environment (*i.e.*, land management and engineering).

September 11-15: Introduction to the Polynesian Heritage Plants that were brought to Hawai'i by early Polynesians for survival as well as some of the plants that were already in Hawai'i prior to their migrations. Introduction to the mythological connections to plants and the "Hawaiian mind" perception of plants.

September 18-22: Traditional Hawaiian taxonomy of plants and continued discussion of Polynesian Heritage Plants.

September 25-September 29: Continued discussion of Polynesian Heritage Plants and Hawaiian planting customs in connection with religious beliefs, divine *mana*, and the physical manifestations of godly presence in plant form (*kinolau*).

October 2-6: Food plants and customs concerning food preparation and consumption.

October 9-13: Aquaculture, fishing and canoe construction.

October 16-20: House (*kauhale*) and other building construction and fiber craft (plaiting).

October 23-27: Childbirth, child rearing and rites of passage.

October 30-November 3: Clothing and personal grooming.

November 8-10: War, weapons, games, sports and recreational pastimes.

November 13-17: Musical instruments and implements and plants concerning the hula.

November 20-24: Medicinal plants and practices.

November 27-December 1: Medicinal plants and practices (con't.).

December 4- 8: Death and funerary practices

December 10: Final Examination Essay **Due No Later Than 8:30 AM.**