



GEOGRAPHY 4075

THE MIXED PLATE: CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL DIVERSITY OF THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII Spring 2018

Instructors: John B. Strait and Ava R. Fujimoto-Strait

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Course Description:

This is a field trip based course that will explore the diverse cultural and environmental diversity of the Big Island of Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated group of islands in the world, and thus, has one of the highest concentrations of endemic plants and animal species anywhere. The Big Island of Hawaii is the most southeastern and youngest island of the Hawaiian archipelago and the only island with active volcanoes. Kilauea has been continuously erupting since 1983 and has been building new land on the SE end of the island. Due to the remote location, great diversity and variations in topography, the Big Island is the perfect mini laboratory for witnessing the Earth system's intricate interaction of geologic, biologic, oceanic and atmospheric processes. Participants can snorkel around volcanic tidal pools and coral reefs one day; hike through rainforest vegetation in Waipio Valley to the remote Hi'ilawe waterfall another day; to exploring the dry/leeward/desert side of the Kona coast and its world-renowned beaches; or drive up to the Mauna Kea summit to star gaze at night. In addition to the diverse ecology, Hawaii is one of the most culturally diverse states in the U.S. A distinctive mix of Polynesian, Asian, European, American and Portuguese cultures has created a truly multicultural society where food, language, and other cultural identities have evolved and become known worldwide as uniquely "Hawaiian" (e.g., the aloha shirt; Pidgin English; Hawaiian food; hula; Hawaiian music; etc.).

Required Materials:

*Doughty, Andrew, 2016. *Hawaii: The Big Island Revealed – The Ultimate Guidebook*. 8th edition. Wizard Publications, Inc., Lihue, HI.

*The instructor will also distribute and/or post on Blackboard supplementary reading material (e.g., newspaper articles; journal articles; etc.) necessary for the course.

Course Format and Grading Policies:

This course will meet bi-monthly throughout the Spring semester. The course is both lecture-based and discussion-oriented. It is imperative that you are prepared for class and ready to discuss any of the topics/readings necessary for class. The instructors will provide students with the necessary readings in ample time to complete before class meeting/discussion. In addition, during the field trip component of the course, students must continue to actively participate in discussion and activities at the various sites.

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of your grade. The course grade will be determined according to the student's research project and participation in discussion during both class and the field trip component of the course.

Research Project (paper AND presentation)	-	70%
Class Participation/Discussion/Field Trip/Other	-	30%

Research Project: Students are to choose an individual research project that focuses on any aspect (cultural, environmental, etc.) of the Big Island of Hawaii. Students will present their research to classmates in March or April, in addition, to turning in a 5-8 page research paper in May. Sources should/can include books, journal articles, films/documentaries, interviews, etc. Please be sure to cite your work properly and provide a bibliography.

Class Participation/Discussion/Field Trip: Regular attendance and relevant/insightful discussion (in lecture; on discussion days in class and during field trip) will be the criteria for 30% of the student's grade in this course. There will be a few written and/or oral take-home assignments throughout the semester that will apply to this portion of the grade (another reason attendance is mandatory).

Important Dates:

January 25 th	Syllabus; Introductory lecture; Reading packets distributed
February 8 th	Research project topics due; Cultural geography lecture/discussion
February 22 nd	Physical geography lecture/discussion
March 8 th	Cultural geography lecture/discussion
March 29 th	Research presentations
April 12 th	Research presentations
May 4 th	Research papers – emailed to professors
June 25 th – July 3 rd	Field trip dates – Big Island of Hawaii