

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3750	Course Title: Postcolonial Literatures: Indigenous Oceania	Date of Offering: W22
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Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

How is Oceania—from the settler colonies of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, to the many islands of the Pacific Ocean—mapped out in words and images by its Indigenous inhabitants? How do these writers and directors connect traditions and knowledge passed down from ancestors to the textual mediums and cultural concerns of the present? What are the conversations taking place between Indigenous peoples of Oceania and those in other global regions? How do you narrate the histories that inform the present? And when your identity is connected to (is)land(s) and ocean, how do you navigate the effects of climate change on your home and its ecosystems?

We will discuss questions such as these and the histories that give rise to them by analyzing English-language Indigenous-created texts across a range of genres—film, poetry (including ecopoetry), Young Adult speculative fiction, documentary, the novel, short stories—and will consider these texts through Indigenous ontologies and epistemologies. No prior knowledge of the Pacific is assumed; students will have the opportunity to connect issues we discuss in class to events and concerns affecting Indigenous people in Turtle Island and elsewhere.

This a reading-intensive course.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Histories of place assignment (600-800 words)	15%
Institutions assignment (600-800 words)	15%
Indigenous scholarship assignment (800-1000 words)	20%
Take-home Midterm	25%
Take-home Final	25%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

- Grace, Patricia. *Baby No-Eyes* (1998)
- Ihimaera, Witi and Tina Makereti, editors. *Black Marks on the White Page* (2017)
- Kightley, Oscar, dir. *Dawn Raid* (2021) [if available]
- Perez, Craig Santos. *Habitat Threshold* (2020)
- Waititi, Taika, dir. *Boy* (2010)
- Winch, Tara June, *The Yield* (2019)
- Young, Lani Wendt. *Telesā: The Covenant Keeper* (2011)

Nb: some of these books will be best purchased as ebooks given distribution costs and challenges during Covid, or are only available in Canada in ebook form. I will email registered students during the F21 exam period with information on where and how to access the required texts.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):
Face to face

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.