

Course Title: **Introduction to Pacific History**

Course Code: **HIST505**

Descriptor Start Date: **01/01/2026**

POINTS: **15.00**

LEVEL: **5**

PREREQUISITE/S: **None**

COREQUISITE/S: **None**

RESTRICTION/S: **None**

LEARNING HOURS

Hours may include lectures, tutorials, online forums, laboratories. Refer to your timetable and course information in Canvas for detailed information.

Total learning hours: 150

PRESCRIPTOR

This course introduces the histories of the Pacific from Indigenous perspectives. Students will explore the Pacific as a region of deep genealogies and exchange while critically examining the impacts of colonialism, migration and globalisation. The distinctive position of Aotearoa New Zealand within the Pacific will be considered. Emphasising Pacific voices, resilience, knowledge systems and historical practices of connection across Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, the course traces continuity and transformations from ancient navigation to contemporary struggles for sovereignty, environment and identity. Students will develop critical understandings of how Pacific peoples have shaped and continue to shape the world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain the distinctive place of Aotearoa New Zealand within the Pacific and its historical and cultural relationships within the region
2. Analyse the impacts of colonialism, migration and globalisation on Pacific societies and histories
3. Identify and describe key Indigenous perspectives, genealogies and practices of connection across Moana-nui-a-Kiwa
4. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of Pacific resilience and contemporary struggles for environment, sovereignty and identity

Disclaimer: Course descriptors may be amended between teaching periods/semesters

CONTENT

Themes may include, but are not restricted to include:

Indigenous Ocean Histories: Exploration of Moana-nui-a-Kiwa as an Indigenous Ocean, highlighting genealogies, voyaging traditions, and knowledge systems that sustained Pacific societies and demonstrated resilience across generations.

Colonial encounters and resistance: Examination of colonial expansion and missionary activity, alongside Pacific Peoples resilience, adaptation and strategies of resistance.

Migration, diaspora and resilience: Study of historic and contemporary Pacific migrations, urbanisation and transnational connections, emphasising community resilience and maintenance of cultural identities.

Aotearoa in the Pacific: Analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand's unique position within the Pacific, exploring the relationships between Māori and Pacific peoples, and the nation's role in regional histories.

Contemporary Pacific futures: Investigation of current struggles and achievements of sovereignty, climate change, and identity, focusing on the resilience, leadership, and innovation of Pacific peoples shaping global futures.

LEARNING & TEACHING STRATEGIES

A combination of teaching and learning strategies will be used, including:

- Face-to-face lectures and tutorials
- Guest lectures from subject matter experts
- Independent research and self-directed study
- Online learning modules (via Canvas)
- Lecturer guidance and feedback

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Assessment Event	Weighting %	Learning Outcomes
Written Assessment	30.00	1, 2, 3
Group Presentation	30.00	1, 2, 3
Case study	40.00	1, 2, 3, 4

Grade Map

MAP1

A+ A A- Pass with Distinction
B+ B B- Pass with Merit
C+ C C- Pass
D Fail

Overall requirement/s to pass the course:

Students must achieve a C- grade overall.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Learning material will be provided to students via Canvas

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For further information, contact: Te Ara Poutama - Faculty of Maori and Indigenous Development

Principal Programme: **AK3704, Bachelor of Arts**

Related Programme/s:

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