

HIS 300.03
Europeans & the South Pacific

Satisfies: GLO, SBS+

Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10:00 am - 11:20 am,

Professor Kathleen Wilson

This upper-division History class will examine societies across the South Pacific, from early settlement to Cold War exploitation, in three separate periods: Epoch 1, early settlement of the central Polynesian islands from Southeast Asia, from 1150-1300; Epoch 2, European contact 1767-1850, a period known as the "Second Age of Discovery," when South Seas peoples imprinted their own beliefs and social systems onto European scientific and cultural practice and consciousness as fully as the Europeans did on theirs; and Epoch 3, 1950s America, when South Pacific imaginaries and histories came to play a significant role in attempt to abolish the global color line, locally (in the United States) and internationally. Readings will include primary and secondary sources, some of which students may obtain for free online. A midterm, paper and final projects, which may be individual or group effort, comprise the required written components.