LING 345: Comparative Polynesian Linguistics
Spring 2014
2,3c (Tuesday & Thursday, 10:10-11:55)
CMC 328

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office hours: Monday, 10:00-11:00a and 2:00-3:00p, or by appointment

Course goals and general format:
We will develop questions on topics in formal Polynesian linguistics, and we will do our best to provide answers. As this implies, there are far more open questions – and questions yet to be asked – than answers. Therefore, the collection and organization of data, and the asking of theoretically informed questions, is of great importance.

As we will discover, Polynesia covers a vast area in the Pacific region, and includes 15 major island groups and many ‘outlier’ island groups as well. This area includes 25 ‘named’ languages. However, very little research has been done on the formal properties of these languages (where formal = phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics). The similarities and differences between these languages means that this is a rich area for comparative research (in the sense of Kayne 2013), although individual student projects may be on a single language.

This class will be run as a seminar, with frequent student presentations. The emphasis is, by necessity, not on received knowledge (of which there is very little), but on ‘knowledge production.’ The syllabus has some listed readings but I reserve the right to add a few more, based on student interest and discovery.

Evaluation:
The breakdown of assignments and their relative weight is as follows:
Presentations 20%
- general presentations = 10%
- paper presentation = 10%
Grammar Sketch 20%
Class Project Data 10%
Project Proposal 20%
Final Paper 30%

These projects consist of the following:

1. General Presentations: There are several days of class dedicated to student presentations – these range from quick and informal to presentations that will run on a ‘conference format.’ Assignment details will be given prior to each presentation.
2. Paper Presentations: In groups of 2, students will present one of the course readings to the class (the readings open for student presentation will be discussed on the first day of class).

3. Class Project Data: As a class, we will collect and do some preliminary analysis of causative constructions in Polynesian. For this short assignment, you will gather and present causative data and any relevant morpho-syntactic phenomenon related to the expression of causatives.

4. Grammar Sketch: A descriptive sketch of one Polynesian language. Here you will distill and organize some salient points from the published grammar of a language, which are often outdated and poorly organized.

5. Project Proposal: A formal prospectus, with bibliographic entries from relevant theoretical research, for your final project. A well-written prospectus can be a major step towards a successful final paper.

6. Final Paper: A formal research paper on the topic of your choice, as defined in the project proposal.

Detailed assignment sheets for all of these course elements will be made available as the course progresses.

**Participation:**
The success of this course depends upon your active participation. I reserve the right to deduct 1/3 of a letter grade for each class missed beyond 2 classes. Be a good citizen and win personal glory by contributing to class discussion, asking questions of me and your peers in class, and being generally ‘alive, awake, alert, and enthusiastic’ in class. Just remember, if you get lost in the woods, a PMA (= positive mental attitude) is one of the most crucial factors in getting out alive.¹

**Academic Support:**
**Disability Accommodation:** Carleton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, Andy Christensen, at 222-4464 or anchrist@carleton.edu, to begin the process. Carleton faculty are strongly encouraged to wait for official notification of accommodations before modifying course requirements for students.

**Writing Help:** The Writing Center, located on the 2nd floor of Scoville and in the Libe (room 329), has peer writing consultants who can work with you during any stage of the writing process (brainstorming to final proofreading). Hours are listed here: [https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/writingcenter/](https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/writingcenter/). You can reserve specific times for conferences in Scoville by using their online appointment system: [https://writingcenter.carleton.edu/](https://writingcenter.carleton.edu/). Walk-ins are welcome at Scoville, though writers with appointments have priority. The Libe location requires no appointments.

**Help with Presentations:** The Speakeasy is a student-staffed resource designed to assist you with class presentations, comps talks, and other speech-related events. Groups and individuals are welcome at our location in the Libe (room 314). A Speakeasy coach, Mike Sobaski or Diana Fraser, can also meet you at other mutually convenient times. Just email them at sobaskim@carleton.edu or fraserd@carleton.edu. For days and times when the Speakeasy is open, visit [go.carleton.edu/speakeasy](http://go.carleton.edu/speakeasy).

Class Schedule: This class schedule is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings, Assignments, &amp; Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Iris Jastram=11:00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Student Presentations – Languages of Polynesia</td>
<td>ILL books by April 5 at the latest!</td>
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| 2    | April 8  | - Comparative Syntax  
- Polynesian Language Grouping  
- Causatives (class project) | Kayne 2013, sections 1,2,8,9 (p. 132-138,144-end)  
Otsuka 2005 (skim)  
Harley 2006 |
|      | April 10 | Maori Phonology (maximal words and passive)                          | Brief selection from Kager 1999  
DeLacy 2003 (add/drop deadline = April 11) |
| 3    | April 15 | Features of Hawaiian                                                | Selections from Elbert & Pukui 1979  
(Class visit from my brother, expert on Polynesian ecology) |
|      | April 17 | Derivation of VSO and case marking                                   | Medeiros 2013                   |
| 4    | April 22 | Reduplication                                                        | DeLacy 1996                     |
|      | April 24 | Raising & Relativization                                             | Chung & Seiter 1980             |
| 5    | April 29 | Questions                                                            | Potsdam & Polinsky 2011         |
|      | May 1    | Relative clauses                                                     | Class project report due        |
|      | May 29   | Project Presentations                                                |                                 |
| 6    | May 6    | Grammar sketch presentations                                         | Grammar sketch due              |
|      | May 8    | Grammar sketch presentations                                         |                                 |
| 7    | May 13   | Class Project Update & Group Discussion                              | (Work on your proposal)         |
|      | May 15   | Ling Methods Lecture                                                 | Proposal due  
(S/Cr/Nc deadline = May 16) |
| 8    | May 20   | Polar Questions in Niuean                                            | Massam et al. 2011 (electronic access via library catalogue) |
|      | May 22   | Short Presentations – Project Updates                                |                                 |
| 9    | May 27   | Group Discussions                                                    | (Work on your proposal)         |
|      | May 29   | Project Presentations                                                |                                 |
| 10   | June 3   | Project Presentations                                                |                                 |
|      | June 9   | Final Paper due Monday, June 9, at noon                               |                                 |