Ethnic Studies 221
Hawaiians

2014 Summer Session I May
27, 2014 – July 3, 2014
Instructor: Willy Kauai
MTWRF, 9:00AM – 10:15AM
BUSAD D301
CRN: 96788

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of Ethnic Studies as it relates specifically to the aboriginal people of Hawai‘i, an ethnic group commonly referred to as Hawaiians. Beginning with the standard basis of Ethnic Studies that race and racism are significant forces that shape identity, this course examines the effect that race has had on shaping a Hawaiian identity within the 20th and 21st centuries. Who is considered Hawaiian today, and what sources inform our contemporary perception and definitions? How and why have these definitions of the term “Hawaiian” become political? How and why has the aboriginal population used ethnicity to construct a political identity, and how have those constructions been overshadowed by race and racism? While analyzing these contemporary definitions, a historical examination of the 19th Kingdom era is also provided as a backdrop to demonstrate how much the meaning of the term Hawaiian has changed today. How was the term Hawaiian defined during the Kingdom era? Who was considered Hawaiian then? These questions and others will guide this class towards investigating the intersections of power that have shaped the identity formations of Hawai‘i’s aboriginal population along the lines of race and ethnicity.

For more information, contact Willy Kauai at kauai@hawaii.edu