Summer Session II
Ethnic Studies 392: Change in the Pacific--Polynesia

*Islands in Time: Approaches to Pacific History*

**Instructor: Kirisitina Sailiata**

This course explores narratives and representations arising from Oceania, specifically deconstructing colonial discourses of the Pacific and Polynesia. How do we come to know the past? How do theories of *tā* and *vā* ground us in shifting landscapes and waterscapes, relationships to one another, and to the sacred? In what ways, do our shared pasts of colonial legacies shape the present? A common saying across Oceania is that to know the future one must stand in the present facing the past with their back to the future. In this distance learning course, students will explore major debates in conceptual and methodological approaches to Pacific history through indigenous and western theories of time and space. Across a broad terrain of texts and multimedia including music, literature, poetry, history, law, film, and art we will map flows of scholarly discourse--bodies of knowledge--and a politics of place--embodied knowledge.