

# Pacific Islander Studies

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Pacific Islander studies introduces students to historical and contemporary topics in relation to Native Pacific Islander communities and Oceanic peoples, cultures, histories, knowledges, and experiences throughout the diaspora in the United States.

Students apply Indigenous epistemologies and methodologies to understand diverse experiences of Oceania, examining imperialism, colonization, militarization and globalization, social and sovereignty movements, tourism, racialization, immigration, environmental justice, climate change and urbanization. Courses center intellectual traditions and contributions of Oceanic communities with an emphasis on agency, the arts, intersectional identities, environment, land rights, and community health.

Courses prepare students of all backgrounds to work in and support Oceanic communities and for diverse careers in the sciences, social sciences, liberal arts, and public and private sectors.

## Academic and Career Pathway

Social and Behavioral Sciences (<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/>)

## Contact Information

**Chair:** Olivia Quintanilla  
**Dean:** Jonathan Fohrman

**Department:** Ethnic Studies  
**Office:** Building OC2700,  
760.795.6844

## Courses

### **PACS 100: Introduction to Pacific Islander and Oceania Studies**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course introduces the interdisciplinary field of Pacific Islands, Pacific Islander, and Oceania studies. Students learn island and ocean geographies by studying maps and discussing the cartographic politics that formed the regions of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. They explore the diverse cultures and identities of the Pacific, highlighting traditional knowledge, customs, arts (storytelling, weaving, tattooing), practices (canoe building, navigation, surfing), religion, and food. Topics include the colonial, postcolonial, and neocolonial histories of the region, from the arrival of European imperialism in the 16th century to contemporary geopolitical struggles. Course materials encompass history texts, scholarly essays, maps, films, literature, music, dance, art, and photography.