

## **OLLI at DU Syllabus – Spring 2024**

*How Hawaii Became a US Territory*

Wednesday Afternoons Online; 8 weeks

Facilitator: David Lippman

**Books/Materials/Supplies: Required - Sarah Vowell, *Unfamiliar Fishes*, Riverhead Books (Penguin) 2011**

### **Weekly Topics**

Until the arrival of Captain Cook in 1778, Hawaiians lived in isolation from Europeans and Western influences. One hundred twenty years later, the Hawaiian Islands became a territory of the United States. This course will take a close look at the transformation - the Americanization of Hawaii.

We will use Sarah Vowell's book, *Unfamiliar Fishes*, as the core text. This short, quirky, sometimes humorous, frequently outraged account of Hawaii's history will be supplemented by videos and a few additional readings.

**Session 1** – Hawaii before Western discovery; the settlement by Polynesians; the native culture; Captain Cook's "discovery" of the islands.

**Session 2** – Kamehameha conquers (unites) the Hawaiian Islands and forms the Kingdom of Hawaii; Henry Obookiah's journey from Hawaii to New Haven; the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions formed; the Foreign Mission School.

Vowell, Pages 1- 40

**Session 3** – Project to bring missions to Hawaii spearheaded by Hiram Bingham and Asa Thurston; missionaries' voyage to Hawaii; Kamehameha's death; the end of the Kapu system.

Vowell, Pages 40 - 65

**Session 4** – Missionaries begin preaching to Hawaiians; missionaries spread out to new locations; Macedonian call; daily life of missionaries; King's court moves to Honolulu; Hawaiian alphabet and written language.

Vowell, Pages 65 - 102

**Session 5** – The whaling industry; conflicts between whalers and missionaries; Dolphin incident; Kamehameha II dies of measles; epidemics diminish native population; the two worlds of Hawaiian royalty; last royal sibling marriage.

Vowell, Pages 102 - 132

**Session 6** – Missionaries force separation of Kamehameha III and his sister wife; she is excommunicated; the Lahainaluna School and spread of literacy; Chief's Children's School and Punahou founded; Hawaiians draft constitution; Hawaii faces aggression from U.S., Britain, and France; land reform and private property; foreigners buy majority of Hawaiian land.

Vowell, Pages 132 – 170

**Session 7** – Sugar industry takes off due to U.S. Civil War and formation of large plantations; importation of foreign workers; continued epidemics reduce native population; death of last in Kamehameha line leads to feud over monarchy; planters accumulate wealth and power; Reciprocity Agreement negotiated with U.S.; new (Bayonet) constitution forced on Hawaii.

Vowell, Pages 170 - 204

**Session 8** – Liliuokalani becomes queen; "Committee of Safety" deposes queen; U.S. troops support coup; new Republic of Hawaii asks to be annexed by U.S.; Spanish-American War pushes American opinion in favor of annexation; Hawaii becomes U.S. territory.

Vowell, Pages 204 -233