THE AMERICANIZATION OF HAWAII

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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, a prized possession in the rapidly expanding American empire. 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.

Session 2 – Contact with Europeans; first settlements by non-Hawaiians; spread of disease.
  Vowell, Pages 1-29

Session 3 – Kingdom of Hawaii.
  Vowell, Pages 29-49

Session 4 – Missionaries, whalers, sugar planters, ranchers; workers from around the world.
  Vowell, Pages 49-83

Session 5 – Europeans and Americans compete to control Hawaii; Hawaiian revolts.
  Vowell, Pages 83-117

Session 6 – Overthrow of Hawaiian Kingdom; Republic of Hawaii founded.
  Vowell, Pages 117-140

Session 7 – Forming of U.S. empire; annexation of Hawaii by U.S.
  Vowell, Pages 140-169

Session 8 – Hawaii as a U.S. territory.
  Vowell, Pages 169-229