

230.191 Tātai whetū

Māori and Indigenous astronomy

Information:

This course will provide students with an understanding of the origins and growth of Māori and Indigenous astronomy. With a primary focus on Māori astronomy we will explore the rich celestial traditions that have guided generations, including uses, practices, movement and applications of the sun, moon and stars and how they relate to the environment as a whole and ecological systems. We will journey together on how Māori navigated the great oceans of the Pacific, how they track time, and understand the universe. The course will delve into kōrero tuku iho, while gaining insights of astronomical knowledge and its modern application. This inspiring course reveals how astronomy shapes culture, environment, and ecology.

Join Professor Rangī Mātāmua, Associate Professor Pauline Harris and Professor Hēmi Whaanga, alongside national and international guest speakers, as they share knowledge on Indigenous and Māori astronomy, Matariki, Maramataka, and celestial navigation. This 100% online course, running summer 2024/25, allows you to enrol from anywhere!

Topics:

- Māori cosmology
- Māori world view
- Māori astronomy
- Pacific astronomy
- World astronomy
- Revitalization of Māori astronomy
- Maramataka
- Matariki
- Māori constellations
- Timing and celestial movements
- Language of the stars
- The future of Māori astronomy

Course times and dates:

Wednesday and Thursday evenings

- Commences Wednesday, 20 November 2024 (semester begins Monday, 18 November)
- Break for Christmas on Monday, 23 December 2024
- Return on Friday, 3 January 2025
- Lectures end Tuesday, 4 February 2025
- Final Assessment due Friday, 7 February 2025

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