The fiftieth state is a favorite vacation destination, well known for its sandy beaches, tropical sunsets, and festive luaus. This carefully cultivated image of paradise is what most island visitors expect and experience when visiting the islands of Hawaii. However, the version of Hawaii that most visitors see is often far from the reality experienced by many residents. In this course, we travel beyond the stereotypical tourist experience to explore the social, cultural, and political tensions and challenges existing in Hawaii. We focus particularly on issues of race, class, and political sovereignty during our visit to the Big Island of Hawaii.

DETAILS:
Instructor: Dr. Kate Knutson, Department of Political Science
Travel Dates: On-campus 1/3-1/10, Hawaii (Big Island) 1/11-1/26
Cost: $3,900 (final cost depends on enrollment)

ACTIVITIES & SITE VISITS (Subject to change)
Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools, Kona Historical Society, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, Luau, Beaches, swimming, snorkeling, City of Refuge, Punalu'u black sand beach, Akaka Falls.

This trip is appropriate for people with academic interests in Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, Economics and Management, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, Communication Studies, History, Geography, Japanese Studies, or Peace Studies.

Direct questions to Knutson@gustavus.edu