PAAS 200: Introduction to Theories and Methods in Pacific and Asian Studies

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Conceptual illustration of the water temple system and wet rice cultivation in Bali, Indonesia
Source: Adapted from http://elsawikander.com/ [Accessed November 1, 2019]

Course description:

This course will introduce a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches applicable to the study of the Pacific and Asian region. Discussions are grounded in key historical and contemporary issues across Asia and the Pacific. Several case studies will be drawn from around the region to highlight how particular ideas and places can be examined and understood from a diversity of perspectives and approaches.

By the end of this course you will be able to:

• Describe and critically analyze a range of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches relevant to understanding the Asia Pacific
• Consider and evaluate how the empirical realities of particular phenomena revealed in case studies inform and are informed by concepts, theoretical frameworks and methods used to explain them
• Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of conventional interpretations of the Asia Pacific, and appreciate alternative conceptualizations
**Proposed assignments:**

- Journal article or book chapter review  20%
- Comparative analysis of two academic journal articles  25%
- Course paper  35%
- Attendance and participation  20%

**Proposed reading list:**

Sample readings include the following:


