

# 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:

Wittfogel, K. A. (1957) *Oriental despotism*. New Haven: Yale, pp. vii-xvii; 1-10.

Lansing, J. S. (1991) *Priests and programmers: Technologies of power in the engineered landscapes of Bali*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Anagnost, A. (2008) From "Class" to "Social Strata": Grasping the social totality in reform era China, *Third world quarterly* 29 (3), pp. 497-519.

Said, E. (2003) *Orientalism*. New York, Vintage.

Hau'ofa E. (1998) The ocean in us. *The Contemporary Pacific* 10 (2), pp. 391-410.

Wang, Z. (2005) Gender and Maoist urban reorganization. In Goodman, B. & Larson, W. (Eds.) *Gender in Motion: Divisions of labor and cultural change in late imperial and modern China*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 189-209.

Tsutsui, W. (2010) *Japanese popular culture and globalization*. Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies. Chapter 3: The global appeal of Japanese popular culture, pp. 35-46.

Jenco, L. (2013) Revisiting Asian values. *Journal of the history of ideas* 74 (2), pp. 237-258.

Hutchinson, S. (2016) Asian Fury: A tale of race, rock and air guitar, *Ethnomusicology* 60 (3), pp. 411-433.