

# PAAS 395: Intermediate Topics in Pacific and Asian Studies: Transcultural Asia

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## Course description:

This course explores the idea of “transculturalism” in Pacific-Asian geographies. While the “area studies” approach developed from a Cold War-era model segregating East vs. West, today’s world is marked by complex global connections and blurred boundaries. Our journey starts by exploring broad theoretical concepts in the academic study of global flows, diaspora, and transnationalism. In order to understand how theory emerges from specific geo-historical contexts, we will probe transregional connections through case studies of transcultural core areas, including 1) Indigeneity and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, 2) empire and settler-colonialism; 3) environmental and climate justice; 4) gender and empire; 5) transcultural heritage; 6) social divisions: caste and race; and 7) diaspora and migration. For your final project you will combine social media with research literature to investigate a “transcultural phenomena” of your choice, resulting in a final project and presentation on “transculturalism in motion.”

Attendance and participation (10%)

Weekly discussion posts & Weekly tweet (30%)

Midterm & Final Exam (20% + 20%)

Transcultural social media project + presentation (20%)

## Proposed reading list:

Barclay, Paul. *Outcasts of Empire: Rule on Taiwan’s “Savage Border,” 1874-1945*

Chibber, Vivek. *Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital (excerpts)*

Hathaway, Michael. *Environmental Winds: Making the Global in Southwest China. (excerpts)*

lewallen, ann-elise. *The Fabric of Indigeneity: Ainu Identity, Gender, and Settler Colonialism in Japan.*

Shah, Alpa. *In the Shadows of the State: Indigenous Politics, Environmentalism, and Insurgency in Jharkhand, India. (excerpts)*

Yengde, Suraj. *Caste Matters. (excerpts)*