PAAS 200

INTRODUCTION TO THEORIES AND METHODS IN PACIFIC AND ASIAN STUDIES

Spring 2018 (CRN 22294)

Class times: Monday and Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 am; Cornett Building [COR] B129

Instructor: Andrew Marton – amarton@uvic.ca
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 11:20 am – 12:15 pm; CLE C225
Teaching Assistant: Jerry Flexer – jbflexer@gmail.com

Course Content

This course will introduce a variety of theoretical approaches and perspectives 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 varying perspectives.

Learning Outcomes – Students will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyse a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives 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
- Summarise, critically review, compare and discuss key arguments from the lectures and readings
- Develop organizational and writing skills to convey knowledge, critical analysis and understanding in clear concise terms
- Work effectively in groups to discuss and present a range of issues and questions

Evaluation

Attendance and Participation (20%) – Attendance and active participation in all classes is required; Students are expected to be familiar with the assigned readings and to provide informed and relevant contributions to class discussions. Attendance will be recorded via a sign-up sheet and marks will be deducted for repeated absences without a valid reason and relevant proof (e.g. Doctor’s note). You will normally be given time in class each week to write very brief critical reflections of key issues or to raise questions in which you will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings and/or that you’re thinking about class discussions. Critical reflections will be reviewed to assess participation and to record attendance.

Academic Journal Article or Book Chapter Review (15%) – Due Monday February 5th
700 word critical review of an academic journal article or book chapter relevant to the course. Format of the review and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.

Midterm Exam (20%) – In class Monday February 19th
Format of the exam and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.
Comparative Analysis of Two Academic Journal Articles (20%) Due Thurs March 8th
800 word comparative analysis of two academic journal articles relevant to the course. Format of the comparative analysis and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.

Course Paper (25%) – Due Thursday April 5th
2000 word essay on some aspect of the Asia Pacific that is of interest to you. Format of the paper and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.

Late submissions – Late assignments will not be accepted without the prior permission of the instructor and only as a result of exceptional extenuating circumstances. Failure to submit coursework will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Originality of topics – Assignments prepared for another course may not be submitted. Anyone wishing to work on a topic addressed in another course must obtain the permission of the instructor at least two weeks before the due date.

Academic integrity – Students on this course are subject to University protocols on plagiarism and cheating. Offences will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, and may result in a failing grade for the course. Further details are on the last page of this outline.

COURSE OUTLINE

• The assigned readings are indicated below. Other assigned and recommended supplementary readings will be added over the term.

Week 1 – Introduction
Course overview and introductions (Thurs Jan 4)

Week 2 – Predicting an Asia Pacific Future
Of miracles, and domains of representation across the Asia Pacific (Mon Jan 8)
Western "discovery" of the region & (re-)constructing the idea of Pacific Asia (Thurs Jan 11)


Week 3 – Hegemony of Western ideas & alternative conceptualizations from Asia
The “hydraulic societies” in Asia thesis to “systems” theory debate (Mon Jan 15)
Hegemony and competing ideologies – Political ecology and symbolic systems in Indonesia (Thurs Jan 18)

**Week 4 – Southeast Asia and Structuralism**

Review – Comparisons of the hydraulic society thesis and Bali wet rice system (Mon Jan 22)
Southeast Asia and the structuralist approach (Thurs Jan 25)


**Week 5 – Ideology & the state in Asia; Colonialization & the post-colonial critique**

Writing a critical review of an academic journal article/book chapter (Mon Jan 29)
Orientalism (Thurs Feb 1)


**Week 6 – Asia Pacific through “other” perspectives**

**Academic Article/Book Chapter Review DUE – Monday February 5th**

Introduction to indigenous and other ways of knowing (Mon Feb 5)
Indigenous perspectives from Oceania; Review and preparation for the Midterm Exam (Thurs Feb 8)


**Week 7 – Family Day/Reading Break – No classes** (Mon Feb 12; Thurs Feb 15)

**Week 8 – Gender, and feminist approaches**

**Midterm Exam – In class Monday February 19th** (Mon Feb 19)

The others within – feminism, gender and politics in the Asia Pacific (Thurs Feb 22)


**Week 9 – Gender, feminist approaches (cont’d); Occidentalism**

Gender and Maoist urban reorganization (cont’d); Putting gender at the centre (Mon Feb 26)
Writing a comparative analysis of two academic journal articles; Introduction to Occidentalism in China (Thurs Mar 1)

Week 10 – Occidentalism (cont’d); Media, film and other forms of expression

Occidentalism – A case study from China: The Heshang controversy; Introduction to Occidentalism in Japan (Mon Mar 5)

*Comparative Analysis of Two Academic Journal Articles DUE – Thursday March 8th*

Culture as translation; Writing the course paper (Thurs Mar 8)


Week 11 – Language, identity, context, space and place

Finding and using resources for research on the Asia Pacific – Library Classroom 130

Please note the change in room for this class (Mon Mar 12)

Culture as translation (continued) (Thurs Mar 15)


Week 12 – Popular culture, knowledge, power relations and resistance

Popular culture, the internet & social media in the Asia Pacific (Mon Mar 19; Thurs Mar 22)


Week 13 – Diaspora, popular culture and globalization

Diaspora communities and globalization; Japanese pop culture (Mon Mar 26)

J-pop and “Gross National Cool”; Introduction to the Asian values debate (Thurs Mar 29)


Week 14 – Divergence and convergence in Pacific and Asian society and culture

*Course Paper DUE – Thursday April 5*

Culture the state & Asian values; Local theory, post-theory & looking ahead (Thurs April 5)

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on academic integrity and enforces the rules on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 46-48 of the current Undergraduate University Calendar (2017-18).

All students are required to read this section: [http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#)

Practices that are NOT acceptable include:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write your assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as your own
- Downloading essays or articles from the internet and submitting part or whole as your own work
- Copying and pasting passages from books, journals online resources or other sources, and presenting them as your own work
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as your own work
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or classroom exercises
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor
- The use of an editor – either as an individual or service, whether paid or unpaid – who manipulates revises, corrects or alters your written or non-written work

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination or classroom exercise: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam or classroom exercise; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

The instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge and understanding of the course material.

Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean.

In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offence and the weight of the assignment, the instructor in consultation with the Chair may assign a failing grade (less than 50%, zero GPA) for the course.

Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to have cheated or plagiarised, nor will they be permitted to complete supplemental assignments. A formal letter of reprimand will be issued to the student and kept on file. Records of any violation will be held by the Office of the Registrar. Such records are held for five years after the offence. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.