

Pacific Basin 100

An Introduction to the Pacific Basin

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Monday & Wednesday: 100-230pm

Classroom: Maathai 304

Office: Maathai 310

Office Hours: After class or by
appointment



THE COURSE

An Introduction to the Pacific Basin is a required course at Soka University, and for good reason. While the Industrial Revolution propelled the Atlantic to world prominence in recent centuries, much of the drama of human history has unfolded in the Pacific Basin. With the rise of China and other Asian economies, as well as continued growth in the western Americas, many have dubbed the coming era as the 'Pacific Century'. This includes continued migration, educational exchanges, and cultural fusions. In many ways, Soka University of America embodies the new Pacific world. The primary objective of this course is to bring students up to speed on this complex landscape.

Is the Pacific Basin a region? This course presumes that something holds together the countries found in Oceania, Southeast Asia, East Asia, North America, and South America. How can we conceptualize such a range of societies as a common region? For inspiration, this course looks to Haida sculptor Bill Reid's *The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii*, pictured above. The massive sculpture, one version of which is located in the Vancouver International Airport, a lynchpin of the Pacific Basin, features a variety of animals, spirits, and persons in one massive canoe. Each figure is looking in a different direction and each seems to have distinct goals; however they are all in the same boat and are all somehow moving in one direction. This is the Pacific Basin—a great range of unique peoples inhabiting one great ocean, and thus facing common challenges.

POLICIES

First: I place great emphasis on constructive participation. The classroom is a place to share ideas / opinions and to challenge each other, but always respectfully: listening to fellow students; communicating effectively regarding assignments; arriving on time; avoiding gender, racial, or religious insensitivities; and completing the required readings.

Second: Communication. I am always available via email, but if you have a general question, other students may want to hear the answer, so ask it in class to gain the participation mark that you deserve. For assignments, email is no substitute for face to face chats. So come and talk to me! In the event of an illness or personal emergency, you must contact me before a given deadline. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day, including weekends, beginning at the end of class.

Third: The course has a considerable online presence via Angel. Here, you will find the syllabus (which may be updated), a course calendar, and links. Under the 'Material' tab, you will find direct links to all readings as well as overviews of previous days' lectures.

Fourth: I expect professionalism in all written assignments: avoid casual internet sources (especially wiki), avoid contractions (a'ite?), and present a clear argument. Students should consult with the instructor regarding the research question and organization of written assignments.

Fifth: All written assignments must be submitted to the instructor in hard and electronic copies, as well as submitted to Turnitin (via Angel). I actually do not like turnitin, but also see plagiarism as a serious academic offense. I hope turnitin can be seen as an educational tool, helping students understand the difference between citation, paraphrasing, and plagiarism.

GRADING

Soka grading is organized in terms of letter grades: A, B+, C-, etc, as well as a 0-4 grade point average. This is how the percentage points in this course will translate into these scales:

90-100	A+	4.0	65-69	B-	2.7
85-89	A	4.0	60-64	C+	2.3
80-84	A-	3.7	55-59	C	2.0
75-79	B+	3.3	50-55	C-	1.7
70-74	B	3.0	>50	F	1.0

READINGS

Book chapters and scholarly articles are available on Angel. Please let me know if you have problems accessing any reading.

Students are expected to purchase a novel set in the Pacific Basin that highlights political or social change. Potential novels include:

Oceania: Epeli Hau'Ofa, *Kisses in the Nederends*; Patricia Grace, *Dogside Story*; Albert Wendt, *Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree*; George Johnston, *My Brother Jack*; Roger MacDonald, *1915*.

Southeast Asia: Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind*; Han Suyin, *And the Rain My Drink*; Multatuli, *Max Havelaar*; Cecelia Brainard, *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept*

East Asia: Mo Yan, *Red Sorghum*; Su Tong, *Wives and Concubines*; Lisa See, *Shanghai Girls*; Oe Kenzaburo, *A Personal Matter*; J.G. Ballard, *Empire of the Sun*

North America: Jack London, *Call of the Wild*; John Steinbeck, *East of Eden* or *Tortilla Flat*; Linda Hogan, *People of the Whale: A Novel*; James A. Michener, *Alaska*; James Houston, *Eaglesong*

Latin America: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; Isabelle Allende, *Ines of my Soul* or *My Invented Country*; Juan Gabriel Vasquez, *the Secret History of Constaguana*

Interregional: Isabelle Allende, *Daughter of Fortune*; Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; Pearl S. Buck, *A House Divided* or *The Good Earth*; V.K. Arseniev, *Dersu the Trapper*

EVALUATION

10%	Participation	Ongoing
10%	Regional Presentations	16 – 30 September
20%	Mid-Term	Monday, 05 October
5%	Postcard	Wednesday, 21 October
10%	Novel Assignment	Monday, 09 November
25%	Research Papers	Friday, 11 December
20%	Final Examination	TBD (15-21 December)

Participation: 10% of your grade will be earned through respectful participation. This means asking insightful questions, engaging with colleagues, punctuality, attendance, being attentive, and communicating with me regarding assignments. **Evaluation ongoing**

Regional Presentation: 10% of your grade will be earned through a brief presentation and reflection paper during the first section of the course. Students will present on a specific theme of that day's region, intended to add some color to these overview classes. Each presentation will be strictly limited to 5 minutes. Students will also submit a one page reflection paper that explains why they chose their topic and how it helps teach their classmates about the region. **16 -30 September**

Mid-Term: 20% of your grade will be earned through an in-class mid-term. The exam will feature multiple choice and short answer questions which will assess students' understanding of the various regions of the Pacific Basin. **Monday, 05 October**

Postcard: 5% of your grade will be earned by designing and writing a historical postcard or letter. Take the perspective of a European settler in the Americas, a Western in colonial Asia, or an early Asian migrant to the Americas. This is a chance to have fun and be creative—I intend to adorn the barren walls of Maathai Hall with these! **Wednesday, 21 October**

Novel Assignments: 10% of your grade will be earned by writing a brief (about four pages) analysis (more than simple description) of a novel of your choice which is situated in the Pacific Basin and highlights political or social change. ALL students must confirm their choice of novels by October. The assignment is due on **Monday, 09 November**

Research Papers: 25% of your grade will be earned through composing a brief research paper (6-8 pages). The instructor will distribute a list of recommended topics early in the course. Students may also choose their own topic, but must do so in consultation with the instructor. Students are expected to get writing early, and will discuss their early paper drafts in class on Wednesday, 02 December. **Due Friday, 11 December**

Final Examination: 20% of your grade will be earned through writing a final exam which will test your understanding of articles and concepts since the mid-term through short answer and essay questions. **15-21 December (do not book travel during this time!)**

CALENDAR

14 Sept Monday Session 01	Introduction What is the Pacific Basin? Is it a region? <i>Regions, countries, and peoples of this course; ecosystems; Spirit of the Haida Gwaii</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Mark Borthwick, "Introduction," <i>The Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia</i> (Westview Press 1998); pp. 1-9. AND John K. Grande, " The Black Canoe: Bill Reid and The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii ," <i>Espace Sculpture</i> 19 (1992); pp. 30-33.

People & Places

16 Sept Wednesday Session 02	Oceania Maoris, Melanesians, Polynesians <i>Student Presentations</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Douglas Oliver, <i>The Pacific Islands</i> (University of Hawaii Press 1989); Ch. 1, pp. 3-31.

21 Sept Monday Session 03	Southeast Asia Malays, Thais, Vietnamese <i>Student Presentations</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Shane J. Barter, "Southeast Asia: Unity in Diversity" (forthcoming); pp. 1-10. AND Jane Kramer, " A Reporter at Odds: Trading the Notebook for the Guidebook ," <i>The New Yorker</i> (23 July 2012); pp. 32-35

23 Sept Wednesday Session 04	East Asia Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese relations <i>Student Presentations</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Kenneth M. Swope, "Deceit, Disguise, and Dependence: China, Japan, and the Future of the Tributary System, 1592-1596," <i>The International Review of History</i> 24:4 (2002); pp. 757-782.

28 Sept Monday Session 05	North American First Nations Southwest, Plains, and Coastal Nations <i>Student Presentations</i>
<i>Readings</i>	George R. Milner & W.H. Wills, "Complex Societies of North America," in <i>The Human Past: World Prehistory and the Development of Human Societies</i> , edited by Chris Scarre (Thames & Hudson 2009); pp. 691-709.

30 Sept Wednesday Session 06	Latin American Indigenous Empires Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas <i>Student Presentations</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Michael Smith, " The Aztec Empire ," in <i>The Aztec World</i> , edited by Elizabeth Brumfiel & Gary Feinman (Abrams 2008); pp. 121-136.

*****Mid-Term Examination (Monday, 05 October)*****

Historical Interactions

How have the peoples and polities of the Pacific Basin interacted with one another? What have been the effects of this interaction, and how has it changed over time? What does this mean for the future?

07 Oct Wednesday Session 08	Pre-European Relations What did pre-colonial regional interactions look like? <i>Land Bridge, Cheng Ho, Trade Winds, Spice Trade, Outriggers, Slave Trade</i>
<i>Readings</i>	William Willetts, "The Maritime Adventures of Grand Eunuch Ho," <i>Journal of Southeast Asian History</i> 5:2 (September 1964); pp. 25-42.

12 Oct Monday Session 09	European Contact & Competition Russian Traders, Spanish Explorers, French & English, Metis, Lewis & Clark
<i>Readings</i>	Walter A. McDougal, <i>Let the Sea Make Noise: Four Hundred Years of Cataclysm, Conquest, War, and Folly in the North Pacific</i> (Avon 1993); pp. 146-172.

14 Oct Wednesday Session 10	Colonialism: Settler States 01 United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America <i>Terra Nullius</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Merete Borch, " Rethinking the Origins of Terra Nullius ," <i>Australian Historical Studies</i> 32:117 (2001); pp. 222-239.

19 Oct Monday Session 11	Colonialism: Settler States 02 Colonialism as Settlement <i>Disease, Conquest, Residential Schools, The Oregon Trail, Railways, the Gold Rush</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Adrienne Mayor, " The Nessus Shirt in the New World: Smallpox Blankets in History and Legend ," <i>The Journal of American Folklore</i> 108:427 (1995); pp. 54-77.

21 Oct Wednesday Session 12	Colonists & Settlers <i>Junipero Serra, Alexander von Humboldt, Norman Bethune, David Suzuki, Alberto Fujimori</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Anthony Pagden, <i>European Encounters with the New World</i> (Yale University Press 1993); Chapter One, pp. 17-49. AND Jonathan Spence, <i>To Change China: Western Advisors in China</i> (Penguin Books 1980); Ch. 8, pp. 205-227. AND Erin Yoshioka, " Interview with David Suzuki ," <i>Discover Nikkei</i> (23 Nov 2009).

*****Postcard / Letter Assignment Due (Wednesday, 21 October)*****

26 Oct Monday Session 13	Colonialism: Asia Colonialism as Control <i>Raffles, Extraterritoriality, French Pacific</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Anthony Reid, " An 'Age of Commerce' in Southeast Asian History ," <i>Modern Asian Studies</i> 24:1 (February 1990); pp. 1-30.

28 Oct Wednesday Session 14	Enclaves Recreating Home <i>Hill Stations, Singapore and Shanghai, Chinatowns</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Carl H. Nightingale, <i>Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities</i> (University of Chicago Press 2012), Ch. 5; pp. 135-157.

*****PBRC Panel: Oceans in World History (Thursday, 29 October)*****

02 Nov Monday Session 15	The Pacific War Japan's and the Allies' Pacific Basins <i>Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, Singapore, Internment</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Peter Duus, " The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: Dream and Reality ," <i>Journal of Northeast Asian History</i> 5:1 (June 2008); pp. 143-154.

04 Nov Wednesday Session 16	The Cold War Communism, Capitalism, and in Between <i>Korea, Vietnam, Migration, Red Scare, Pinochet, Non-Aligned Movement</i>
<i>Readings</i>	George C. Herring, "America and Vietnam: The Unending War," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 70:5 (Winter 1991); pp. 104-119.

*****Field Trip (Date & Destination TBD)*****

Contemporary Themes

What are some of the common contemporary themes which transcend the Pacific Basin? Of an infinite number of potential topics, this section will look at regional art, globalization, indigenous movements, climate change, political-economic change, and supranational organizations.

09 Nov Monday Session 17	Literature & the Arts Novel Presentations by Region <i>Enrichment Hypothesis, Haida Art, Emily Carr, Gauguin</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Novels

*****Novel Assignments Due (Monday, 09 November)*****

11 Nov Wednesday Session 18	Indigenous Movements Who is indigenous? How can indigenous groups protect their heritage? <i>Leonard Peltier, AIM, Dayakology, Nisga'a Treaty</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Christopher Fritz Roth, " Without Treaty, Without Conquest: Indigenous Sovereignty in Post-Delgamuukw British Columbia ," <i>Wicazo Sa Review</i> 17:2 (2002); pp. 143-165.

16 Nov Monday Session 19	Urban Violence How have revolutionary wars transformed into urban violence? <i>Sandinistas, FMLN, Sendero Luminoso, MS-13, Cartels</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Dennis Rodgers, " Slum Wars of the 21st Century: Gangs, Mano Dura and the New Urban Geography of Conflict in Central America ," <i>Development & Change</i> 40:5 (2009); pp. 949-976.

18 Nov Wednesday Session 20	Urban Life How are Pacific Basin Cities Changing? <i>Asian Megacities, Drug Use, Insite, Gentrification, Real Estate, Rapid Transit</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Richard Marshall, " Asian Megacities ," in <i>Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory, & Urban Design</i> , edited by Edward Robbins & Rodolphe El-Khoury (Routledge 2004); pp. 194-211. AND Evan Wood et al, " Methodology for Evaluating Insite: Canada's First Medically Supervised Safer Injection Facility for Injection Drug Users ," <i>Harm Reduction Journal</i> 1:9 (2004); pp. 1-5.

23 Nov Monday Session 21	Rising Tides How does climate change impact the Pacific Basin? <i>Pacific Islands, ice caps, climate change</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Carol Farbotko, " Wishful Sinking: Disappearing Islands, Climate Refugees, and Cosmopolitan Experimentation ," <i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i> 51:1 (2010); pp. 47-60.

25 Nov Wednesday Session 22	Rising China How does the growth of China impact the Pacific Basin? <i>Natural Resources, interdependency, encirclement</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Nicholas D. Kristof, " The Rise of China ," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 72:5 (1993); pp. 59-74. AND Zheng Bijian, " China's Peaceful Rise to Great Power Status " <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 84:5 (2005); pp. 18-24.

30 Nov Monday Session 23	Globalization Globalization vs Glocalization <i>Cuisine and Authenticity</i>
<i>Readings</i>	James L. Watson, "McDonald's in Hong Kong: Consumerism, Dietary Change, and the Rise of a Children's Culture," in <i>Golden Arches East: McDonalds in East Asia</i> , edited by James L. Watson (Stanford University Press 2006); pp. 77-109.

02 Dec Wednesday Session 24	Open Topic! Students vote on the topic of this class <i>Conscious Capitalism, gender, migration, armed conflict, education, mixed race, other topics</i>
<i>Readings</i>	TBD

*****Research Paper Discussion (Wednesday, 02 December)*****

07 Dec Monday Session 25	Regional Governance Why don't Pacific Basin countries hang out more? <i>APEC, ASEAN +3, NAFTA, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Richard Stubbs, " ASEAN Plus Three: Emerging East Asian Regionalism? " <i>Asian Survey</i> 42:3 (May / June 2000); pp. 440-455. AND David Ignatius, " A Breakthrough on Trade in Asia ," <i>Washington Post</i> (29 Jan. 2015).

Conclusions

09 Dec Wednesday Session 26	What is the Pacific Basin? / Review A Pacific Century, Soka's mission, Global Citizenship
<i>Readings</i>	David G. Timberman, " In Search of a Pacific Basin Community ," <i>Asian Survey</i> 21:5 (May 1981); pp. 579-598.

*****Research Paper Due (Friday, 11 December)*****

*****Final Exam (15-21 December)***
(Likely Friday, 18 December...)**

