The Pacific World

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Summer 2018, Session I
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Lectures and Discussion: MTWR 3:15-5:15 pm, ICC 213

Course Description: The Pacific Ocean has historically been regarded as a vast and prohibitive void rather than an avenue for integration. Yet over the last five centuries motions of people, commodities, and capital have created important relationships between the diverse societies situated on the "Pacific Rim." This course examines the history of trans-Pacific interactions from 1500 to the present. It takes the ocean itself as the principal framework of analysis in order to bring into focus large-scale processes--migration, imperial expansion, cross-cultural trade, transfers of technology, cultural and religious exchange, and warfare and diplomacy. This "oceans connect" approach to world history brings these processes into sharp relief while also allowing for attention to the extraordinary diversity of cultures located within and around the Pacific.

Course Format: Combination of lectures and discussion in ICC 213.

Course Learning Goals: Students who consistently come to class, participate in discussions, finish the readings, and complete all requirements will improve their ability to:

- Appreciate places, cultures, and peoples in the Pacific World from different perspectives.
- Think critically about change over time. “The past” is not an unchanging set of facts but an ongoing conversation about what it means. It is an argument about how we should interpret it in light of available evidence while remaining sensitive to the many contexts we may place them in.
- Identify and analyze primary sources, and use them critically as evidence for building historical interpretations.
- Access and use library resources, databases, journals, books, and digital media.
- Articulate ideas verbally and in writing and defend them with evidence.
- Read critically and reflect thoughtfully on texts, and carefully assess their claims and biases.
- Write critically and thoughtfully. You will be able to articulate a thesis-driven argument supported with evidence documented in standard citation formats.

Course Readings: The following books are available for purchase in the GU Bookstore or from other booksellers:


All required books are on 4-hour reserve in the library. In addition to these required books, a number of required articles, chapters, and primary documents are available in PDF in the HIST 107-10 Blackboard website under “Documents.” These items are marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus.


**Course Requirements:**

- One short (7–8 pages) paper (based entirely on assigned course reading; topics to be handed out during the summer session) (30%)
- Final exam (short answer identifications and comprehensive essay questions on material covered over entire summer session) (30%)
- Participation (30%) (Participation may also take the form of pop quizzes to ensure students are consistently doing the readings)
- Attendance (10%)

Letter grades in this course have the following numerical equivalents: A=4.00; A- =3.67; B+=3.33; B=3.00; B-=2.67; C+=2.33; C=2.00; D+=1.33; D=1.00; F (work turned in but unsatisfactory)=0.50; F (work not turned in at all or work deemed by Georgetown University Honor Council to be plagiarized in part or in whole)=0.00.

**Academic Integrity:** All written work in this course is governed by the Georgetown University Honor System. Anyone found guilty of cheating or plagiarism by the Honor Council will receive an “F” (0.00) for the assignment in question. Egregious acts of plagiarism may result in an “F” for the course as well. Plagiarism is defined as “the act of passing as one’s own the idea or writings of another.” You are expected to avoid the possibility of even unintentional plagiarism by acknowledging all sources of your work. If you have any questions about proper citation, please do not hesitate to approach the instructor.

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course and the Pacific**

**June 4 (M): Course Introduction**
June 5 (T): The Pacific as History


June 6 (W): Pacific Environments


June 7 (R): Contemporary Uses of Pacific

Library Assignment: Using Lauinger Library (either GEORGE, the stacks, or on-line databases), find a written text (newspaper or magazine article or other printed or digital material) that uses one or more of the following terms: “Pacific,” “Pacific world,” “Asia-Pacific” (or Asia/Pacific, Asia Pacific, Pacific Asia), or “Pacific Rim.” Bring the text to class and be prepared to discuss these terms in the context of the material you brought. The text will be handed in so please put your name on it. You must utilize the library to find this text and you must provide the call number or database you used to find it. Entries from Wikipedia or those found simply through a Google search will not count. We will use your texts as the basis for our first discussion.

Week 2: Early Pacific

June 11 (M): Pacific Peoples


June 12 (T): Pacific before Empire


June 13 (W): Pacific Crossings before Empire (1)


June 14 (R): Pacific Crossings before Empire (2)


Week 3: Imperial Pacific

June 18 (M): European Discovery of the Pacific


June 19 (T): The Age of Empire in the Pacific


June 20 (W): Race in the Pacific World


June 21 (R): Establishing Power in the Pacific


Week 4: Pacific Currents

June 25 (M): Resource Raiding in the Pacific


June 26 (T): Science in the Pacific


June 27 (W): Pacific Movements


June 28 (R): A Pacific Century?


Week 5: Last Push to Freedom

July 2 (M): Final Paper Presentations and Final Paper due in Class

July 3 (T): Review Session

July 4 (W): Independence Day Holiday

July 5 (R): Final Exam