

Camosun College, School of Arts and Science

ASIA 111: CONTEMPORARY ASIA-PACIFIC
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Instructor: Helen Lansdowne

Office: Paul 228 **Phone:** 370-3373

Email: lansdowne@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Monday 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Class Schedule: Thursday, 6:00 – 8:50 pm

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the development of the Asia-Pacific region in the modern period. Through a series of lectures, it will trace the political, economic, cultural and social developments of the various countries and areas of the Pacific, including East Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the issues of development, nationalism, democracy, class, gender, and cultural identity.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students will identify:

1. the physical landscape, cultural heritage and identities of the different areas of modern Asia-Pacific;
2. the roles of history, literature, art, religion and philosophy of different areas of modern Asia-Pacific.
3. the political and social structures, ideologies, and changes in modern Asia-Pacific.
4. the divergent economic systems, policies and development patterns in modern Asia-Pacific.

Required Text:

1. Vera Simone. The Asian Pacific: Political and Economic Development in a Global Context. Second Edition. New York: Longmans, 2001.

Required Readings:

There will be seven additional articles assigned for this course.

All additional required readings will be available on **Reserve** in the library.

Course Requirements:

Attendance	10%	
Map Quiz	15%	January 15th
Mid-Term	20%	March 4th
Term Paper	35%	Due on Tuesday, April 1st
Final Exam	20%	April 8th (Final Class)

Letter Grades: will be assigned according to the following distribution of marks:

A+ 95-100	B+ 80-84	C+ 65-69	
A 90-94	B 75-79	C 60-64	F <50
A- 85-89	B- 70-74	D 50-59	

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 8th

INTRODUCTION: The Asia-Pacific Region and Theories of Development

Simone, Chapter 1.

January 15th

DECOLONIZATION: Nationalism, Independence and Socialist States

Simone, Chapter 3,

Simone, Chapter 4, pp. 111-140

Map Quiz

January 22nd

ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY OCEANIA

Reading #1

Hau'ofa, Epeli (1993) 'Our Sea of Islands' in Waddell, Eric, Naidu, Vijay and Hau'ofa, Epeli (eds) *A New Oceania: Rediscovering Our Sea of Islands*. School of Social and Economic Development, University of the South Pacific: Suva.

Reading #2

Time to Talk Radio Series:

<http://abc.net.au/timetotalk/english/radio>

Students are required to read the transcript or listen to the program for each of the following segments (including the Opinion and Issues pages for each):

Program Three: Independence and Nation Building

Program Five: After Independence – What Happened?

Program Twelve: Human Rights and Gender Equity

Program Thirteen: Contesting State Rule

January 29th

COMMUNISM IN ASIA: Chinese Revolution

Reading #3

Lucian Bianco *Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-1949*. Chapter 4, "Social Causes of the Chinese Revolution" (On Reserve)

February 5th

**NATION-STATE BUILDING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND
AUTHORITARIAN PLURALISM: Singapore, Japan and Korea**

Simone, Chapter 4, pp. 140-186

February 12th

PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Simone, Chapter 5.

February 19th

COLD WAR AND POST-COLD WAR IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Simone, Chapter 7

February 26th

**POST-WAR SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Japan and China and
Review**

Simone, Chapter 8

March 4th

Midterm

1990'S: ECONOMIC CRISIS

Simone, Chapter 9

March 11th

DEMOCRATIZATION IN ASIA, CULTURE AND VALUES

Reading #4

Phillip Hookon Park. "The Cause of the Acute Food Crisis in the Democratic Republic of Korea." Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars, Volume 30, No. 4 (October-December 1998) pp. 24-34

Simone, Chapter 6

March 18th

DEMOCRATIZATION: SOUTHEAST ASIA

Reading #5

Richard Stubbs, "Performance Legitimacy and Soft Authoritarianism", *Democracy, Human Rights & Civil Society in Southeast Asia*. Amitav Acharya et al (eds.) Toronto: Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies

FAMILY VALUES: THE ONE CHILD POLICY

Reading #6

Tyrene White, "The Origins of China's Birth Planning Policy", *Engendering China Women, Culture and the State* Christina Gilmartin et al (eds.) Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994.

March 25th

HIV/AIDS IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

Reading #7

Chris Breyer *War In the Blood: Sex, Politics and Aids in Southeast Asia*, Chapter 1 and 2

SEX TRADE IN ASIA AND OTHER ISSUES OF TRANSMIGRATION

Reading #8

Jeremy Seabrook, *Travels in the Skin Trade*. 1996
London: Pluto Press, Chapters 1, 2, and 6.

April 1st

WOMEN IN ASIA-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

Reading #9

Jonathan Rigg *Southeast Asia the human landscape of modernization and development*. Chapter 6, "The Factory World", pp. 216-238. "Women and Work"

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Reading #10

Report to the Environmental Conference on
Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam

"Long-Term Consequences of the Vietnam War"

PAPER DUE

April 8th

IN CLASS FINAL EXAM