

Camosun College, School of Arts and Science

**ASIA 111: CONTEMPORARY ASIA-PACIFIC**

**Instructors:** Helen Lansdowne and Bernard Henin

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**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:00

**Class Schedule:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:50

**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%	
First Test	20%	<b>Wed, July 14</b>
Second Test	25%	<b>Wed, Aug 4</b>
Third Test	20%	<b>Mon, Aug 9</b>
Fourth test	25%	<b>Wed, Aug 18 (Final Class)</b>

**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

**Week One: July 5<sup>th</sup> and 7th**

**TOPIC 1—INTRODUCTION: The Asia-Pacific Region and Theories of Development**

Simone, Chapter 1.

**TOPIC 2—DECOLONIZATION AND NATION BUILDING**

Simone, Chapter 3,  
Simone, Chapter 4

**Week Two: July 12<sup>th</sup> and 14th**

**TOPIC 3—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)

**TOPIC 4—COLD WAR AND POST-COLD WAR IN THE PACIFIC REGION**

Simone, Chapter 7

**Week Three: July 19<sup>th</sup> and 21st (Guest Lecture by Heidi Tyedmers Email: [tyedmers@uvic.ca](mailto:tyedmers@uvic.ca))**

**TOPIC 5 - OVERVIEW OF OCEANIA: COLONIALISM AND THE COLONIAL LEGACY**

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.

## **TOPIC 6 - ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY OCEANIA**

Reading #2

The following selections from the New Internationalist Issue No 291/June 1997 "South Pacific: The Last Resort"

[[www.newint.org/issue291/contents.html](http://www.newint.org/issue291/contents.html)]

1. Emberson Bain, 'Atu "Fishy Business"

[[www.newint.org/issue291/fishy.htm](http://www.newint.org/issue291/fishy.htm)]

2. Johnson, Giff, "Back to Bikini"

[[www.newint.org/issue291/bikini.html](http://www.newint.org/issue291/bikini.html)]

3. "Decolonizing the Mind"

[[www.newint.org/issue291/interview.html](http://www.newint.org/issue291/interview.html)]

**Week Four: July 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**

## **TOPIC 7—INDUSTRIALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN PACIFIC ASIA**

Simone, Chapter 5 and Chapter 8

Other reading TBA

**Week Five: August 4<sup>th</sup>**

## **TOPIC 8—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.

**Week Six: August 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**

## **TOPIC 9—DEMOGRAPHICS IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**

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.

Other reading TBA

**Week Seven: August 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

## **TOPIC 10—ETHNIC MINORITIES AND UPLAND DEVELOPMENT**

Reading TBA