



**School of Arts & Science  
Social Sciences Dept.**

**Asia 212,  
Research Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region  
Winter 2007**

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## 1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Helen Lansdowne
- (b) Office hours: Tuesdays – 8:30-10:30; Wednesdays – 8:30-10:30
- (c) Location: Paul Building, Room 230
- (d) Phone 370-3369 \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) E-mail: [lansdown@uvic.ca](mailto:lansdown@uvic.ca) or [lansdown@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:lansdown@camosun.bc.ca) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Pac 212 is intended as an introduction to historical and contemporary Western critical theories and their use as analytical tools in the study of the Asia-Pacific region. This course is not about learning facts and figures, rather it is about formulating ideas and asking questions. In other words, this course is about critical thinking, and it is about learning to express your thoughts in clear, coherent, and concise language.

In the coming weeks we will explore issues such as the rise of modern industrial capitalism, Marxism, Modernism, Orientalism, Post-Colonialism, Postmodernism, Consumer Capitalism and Globalization. We will explore such questions as how we know what we know, and how various types of knowledge are used by governments and international corporate institutions to pursue social, cultural, political, and economic agendas. In the context of such issues **all students** will be required to engage in the critical analysis of selected problems in discussions, oral presentations and written assignments.

Outcomes include:

1. Have a comprehensive understanding of Western critical theories;
2. Be able to make the connection between critical theory as analytical tools;
3. Compare and understand the transition from a modernist to a post-modernist society;
4. Have a thorough understanding of researching and writing an analytical paper.

## 3. Required Materials

1. *Notes on the Preparation of Essays in the Arts and Sciences*. Fourth Edition, Peterborough, Ontario: Trent University, 1993.

2. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Anne Fadiman. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997.
3. Reserved Readings (Listed Below)

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

##### Week 1: Course Introduction

January 8                      Lecture: Overview of Course and Expectations

January 10                    Writing a Paper

##### Week 2: Academic Writing

January 15                    Lecture: The Art of Researching and Writing  
Readings:                    Notes on Preparation of Essays, pp. 6-60.

January 17                    Internet Exploration – in the Library

##### Week 3: How do we know what we know? Objectivity and the Social Sciences

January 22                    Lecture: Objectivity and the Social Sciences  
Readings:                    E. H. Carr, *What is History*, Ch. 1

January 24                    Discussion: Limits to Objectivity  
Readings:                    Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*, New York: Picador, 2003, Ch. 2  
J. Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Ch. 1

#1 Weekly Comments due at beginning of class.

##### Week 4: Orientalism

January 29                    Lecture: Edward Said and Orientalism  
Readings                    E.W. Said, *Orientalism*, Introduction, pp. 1-28

January 31                    Discussion: Orientalism and Occidentalism in Practice  
Readings:                    C. Lutz and J. Collins, *Reading National Geographic*, Ch. 4, pp. 87-117  
M. Creighton, "Imaging the Other in Japanese Advertising Campaigns", pp. 135-160

#2 Weekly Comments Due at beginning of class.

##### Week 5: Classical Theorists

February 5                    Lecture: Emile Durkheim  
Readings:                    E. Durkheim, *Anomic Suicide* (1897) from Kenneth Thompson et al (eds.) *Sociological Perspectives*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1971, pp. 106-117

February 7                    Lecture: Max Weber  
 Readings:                    Tim Delaney, "Max Weber" from *Classical Social Theory Investigation and Application*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2003, pp. 129-151

#3 Weekly Comments due at beginning of class.

#### Week 6: Modes of Production and Proletarianization

February 12                    Lecture: Political Economies  
 Readings:                    K. Marx and F. Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*

February 14                    Discussion: Asian Workers  
 Readings:                    A. Ong, *Japanese Factories, Malay Workers*

#4 Weekly Comments due at beginning of class.

Short Paper due: Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> under my office door by 4 pm  
 (Paul 230)

#### Week 7: Institutions and Regulations

February 19                    Lecture: The Fine Art of Docility  
 Readings:                    M. Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 135-169

February 22                    Discussion: Rules of Conformity  
 Readings:                    S. Suryakusama, "State and Sexuality in New Order Indonesia", pp. 92-119

#5 Weekly Comments due at beginning of class.

#### Week 8: Global Realms

February 26    Lecture: Global Economies  
 Readings:                    David Harvey, "Time-space compression and the postmodern condition", pp. 284-307

February 28    Discussion: Globalization and Cultural Practice  
 Reading:                    1. Tang beng Hui, "Women's Sexuality and the discourse on Asian Values"  
                                   2. K. Iwabuchi, "Becoming 'Culturally Proximate': the Ascent of Japanese Idol Dramas in Taiwan", pp. 54-74.

#6 Weekly Comments due at beginning of class.

#### Week 9: Ideology and Gender

March 5                      Lecture: Gender and the Social Sciences  
Readings:                    Katherine Lutz, "The Gender of Theory," pp. 249-266.

March 7                      Discussion: Asian Women in a Global Context  
Readings:                    1. Aihwa Ong, "Women Out of China: Traveling Tales and Traveling Theories in Post-colonial Feminism," pp. 350-372.  
2. Jennifer Krier, "Narrating Herself: Power and Gender in a Minangkabau Woman's Tale of Conflict", pp. 51-75

#7 Weekly Comment is due at the beginning of class.

**Book Report due: Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> under my office door by 4 pm (Paul 230)**

#### Week 10: The Win and Lose of Development

March 12                    Lecture: Concepts in Development Studies  
Readings:                    Andrew Webster, "The Sociology of Development," pp. 1-14

March 14                    Discussion: What is Sustainable development?  
Readings:                    1. Vaclav Smil, "Development and Destruction in China" pp195-217  
2. G. Esteva, "Development", pp. 6-25

#8 Weekly Comment is due at the beginning of class.

#### Week 11: Modernization Theory, Dependency, and the World System

March 19                    Lecture: Modernization Theory and Developing Underdevelopment  
Readings:                    Gordon Laxer "Inequality Among Nations: Perspectives On Development", pp. 240-269.

March 21                    Discussion: The New International Division of Labor  
Readings:                    1. Rosalinda Pineda-Ofreneo, "Philippine Outwork: Subcontracting for Export-oriented Industries," pp. 158-164.  
2. John Sidel, "The Underside of Progress: Land, Labor, and Violence in Two Philippine Growth Zones, 1985-1995," pp. 3-12.

#9 Weekly Comment is due at the beginning of class.

#### Week 12: Development Concepts and Paradigms

March 26                    Lecture: World Systems Analysis  
Readings:                    K. B. Marks, "The rise of the west?"

March 28                    Discussion Oceania in the New Global Order  
Readings:                    1. Glenn Alcalay, "Pacific Island Responses to U.S and French Hegemony,"  
2. Teresia Teaiwa, "Bikinis and other s/pacific/oceans"

#10 Weekly Comment is due at the beginning of class.

Final Paper due: Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> under my office door by 4 pm (Paul 230).

### Week 13: Gender and Identity

April 2                      Lecture: Third World Rhetoric  
No Readings:              In Class film

April 4                      Discussion: Orientalism Revisited  
Readings:                  1. L. Schein, "Gender and Internal Orientalism in China", pp. 69-98

No Weekly Comment is due this class.

### Week 14: The New Global Environment

April 9                      Easter Holiday – No Class

April 13                     Lecture: Who's In and Who's Out  
Reading:                    Zigmund Bauman, "Dreams of Purity" pp. 7-28

No Weekly Comment is due this class.

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment

### Weekly Comments:

At the beginning of each weekly discussion every student is required to submit, **in person**, a one page commentary on the assigned readings. (All of the readings are available in the Reserve Reading Room at the main library). Please take note that the written comments are not to be based on the material from the Monday lectures, but from the material assigned for the weekly discussions. There is no set form for the commentary, but you should not merely summarize the readings. The objective of this exercise is for you to give your thoughtful reaction to the weekly topic, and to what the various authors have to say. Commentaries are to be kept to a length of one type written page. **Comments must be handed in at the beginning of the Wednesday class. Late assignments will not be accepted. (20%)**

### Presentations:

Each student in the class must give a 10 to 15 minute oral presentation at the beginning of one of the weekly discussions. The presenters' task is to pick one or two particularly important and interesting aspects of the general topic to be discussed, research them, and present findings to the class. **Avoid dull and deadly summaries.** Be as controversial and provocative as you like. The purpose of the presentations is to stimulate discussion on the questions raised. **(10%)**

### Participation:

Each student is expected to attend class and be prepared to participate in discussions. Participation will be noted and is worth **5%** of your total mark.

**Short Paper:**

This first paper is to be 1000 words long. It is a “**problem paper**,” that is, you are to select an issue of particular interest to you (historical or contemporary), research it, and write an analytical paper. This is called a **problem paper** because you must choose an issue that has opposing points of view or interpretation. I would suggest that you focus on how a particular Asia-Pacific issue has been presented in popular or academic literature. You should explore the dimensions of the “problem” rather than try to give a definitive answer. You should discuss the critical approaches used by the various authors to which you refer in your paper. To receive a good mark on this assignment you must do more than merely summarize or describe; dig beneath the surface and analyze.

This short paper must conform to academic form and standards. It must include a title page, a clear opening statement, a concluding statement, proper footnotes, and a bibliography. You must include two direct quotations (no more): a short one of a line or two, and a longer one of a paragraph or so, using proper academic style. You must also include at least five footnotes. Be sure to make use of the assigned text, *Notes on the Preparations of Essays in the Arts and Sciences*.

**The short paper is 1000 words long (four typewritten pages, 250 words per page, size 12 font, one-inch margins), is worth 15% of your grade and is due on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> by 4 p.m. (under my door).**

**Book Report:**

In your analytical book report, you will offer both a summary and an evaluation of the book *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Do not simply reiterate the book's plot and conclude with a personal opinion. Situate your summary in the context of the author's arguments, in light of ideas gleaned from this course or other courses, and in light of the points you consider to be the most important. Your evaluation should be substantiated by specific examples from the book (including page numbers). If you wish, you may draw on other course materials to evaluate the book, but this is not necessary. A good report will be clear, coherent and thorough. A superior report will be personable and informed.

The report must conform to academic forms and standards. It must include a title page, a clear opening statement, a concluding statement, proper footnotes and a bibliography if necessary.

**The book review is 1500 words long (6 typewritten pages, etc.), and is due on March 3<sup>rd</sup> (under my office door by 4 p.m.) and is worth 20% of your grade.**

**Long Paper:**

This paper is to be 2000 words in length, and is due on the last day of class. For this paper students are free to choose any topic that concerns the Asia-Pacific region. (**Note:** all topics must be approved by the instructor). In this paper students must identify and analyze important issues, questions, and problems raised in the various course readings. To get a good mark on this paper you will have to go beyond presenting a mass of facts and figures; it is important that you demonstrate your research skills and analytical abilities.

**The final paper is 1500 words in length (6 to 7 typewritten pages, etc.) and is due on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, under my office door by 4 p.m. It is worth 25% of your grade.**

**Important Note:**

The presentations, short paper, and long paper must all deal with issues related to the Asia-Pacific region. The topics for each of these assignments must be different from one another. Work covering substantially the same topics will not be accepted. Marks for papers exceeding the specified word limits will be reduced by 10% for every extra page (based on a font of not more than 12 characters per inch, 25 lines per page, and one inch margins...250 words per page). Papers deficient in English (i.e. grammar, syntax, and spelling) will be marked down.

**6. Grading System**

*(If any changes are made to this part, then the Approved Course description must also be changed and sent through the approval process.)*

*(Insert appropriate approved grading system – see last page of this template.)*

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 80 - 84%	C = 60 - 64%	

## LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

## ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)