Pacific World History

Class code
HIST-UA 9830

Instructor Details
Dr Alecia Simmonds
aleciasimmonds@nyu.edu.au
Office Hour: Thursday 4:00-5:00pm; other times by appointment
Please allow at least 24 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails.

Class Details
Spring 2015

Pacific World History

Thursday 12:00 – 3:00pm
February 5 to May 14
Room 304
NYU Sydney Academic Centre

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
Does the Pacific Ocean have an integrated history? Though its waters connect places as diverse as Patagonia, Kamchatka, Hawai‘i, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Sydney, histories of these disparate places and their societies can profitably be considered under a common rubric. This course brings together work across disciplines, from history, anthropology, geography, political economy, and cultural studies, to piece together the contours of the Pacific Ocean world, c. 1500 to c. 1850, as a historical arena of internal linkages as well as complex connections with the wider world. Central themes of the course will include cultural encounters, comparative empires, trade, and environmental change.

Desired Outcomes
Throughout this course, students will be expected to:

- Examine continuity and change from c.1500-1850 in the Pacific World, locating its place in world history and its social, cultural, political and economic development.
- Critically analyse contemporary historical documents pertaining to the Pacific World, setting them in historical context.
- Become acquainted with the different disciplinary approaches, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies used to investigate historical topics and history itself.
• Develop the ability to analyse and contextualise key events, ideas and concepts, discussions and debates.

**Assessment Components**

- **Short essay (1000 words):** 20% due in Session 5
- **Essay plan (500 words):** 15% due in Session 10
- **Long essay (2,500 words):** 40% due in Session 14
- **In-class presentation (15-20 minutes):** 15%
- **Class Participation:** 10%

*Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component will result in failure of the class.*

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** Excellent performance showing a thorough knowledge and understanding of the topics of the course; all work includes clear, logical explanations, insight, and original thought and reasoning.

**Grade B:** Good performance with general knowledge and understanding of the topics; all work includes general analysis and coherent explanations showing some independent reasoning, reading and research.

**Grade C:** Satisfactory performance with some broad explanation and reasoning; the work will typically demonstrate an understanding of the course on a basic level.

**Grade D:** Passable performance showing a general and superficial understanding of the course’s topics; work lacks satisfactory insight, analysis or reasoned explanations.

**Grade F:** Unsatisfactory performance in all assessed criteria. Work is weak, unfinished or unsubmitted.

**Grade Conversions**

This course uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 84-86
- B- = 80-83
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 74-76
- C- = 70-73
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 65-66
- F = below 65

**Late Submission of Work**

Written work due in class must be submitted to your instructor during class time.

Late work should be submitted in person to the Academic Coordinator during regular office hours (9:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday). In the absence of the Academic Coordinator,
another member of the administrative staff can accept the work in person. The NYUS staff will mark down the date and time of submission in the presence of the student. Students must also submit an electronic copy of late written work to Turn-it-In within 24 hours.

Work submitted after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100-point scale (for the assignment) for each day the work is late.

Written work submitted beyond five (5) weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

The academic standards of New York University apply to all coursework at NYU Sydney. NYU Sydney policies are in accordance with New York University’s plagiarism policy. The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are severe and are dealt with by the Director, NYU Sydney, not your instructor. Your home school will be notified and you will be dealt with according to the standards of that school. The codes of conduct and academic standards for NYU’s various schools and colleges are outlined in the respective school’s academic resources.

Study abroad at Global Academic Centres is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centres is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalised with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade for every week of classes missed.

The class roster will be marked in the first five minutes of class and anyone who arrives after this time will be considered absent. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences will result in harsher penalties, including failure.

This is a seminar subject and requires the active participation of all students. It also requires engaged discussion, including listening to and respecting other points of view. Your behaviour in class should respect your classmates’ desire to learn. It is important for you to focus your full attention on the class, for the entire class period.

- Arrive to class on time.
- Once you are in class, you are expected to stay until class ends. Leaving to make or take phone calls, to meet with classmates, or to go to an interview, is not acceptable behaviour.
• Phones, digital music players, and any other communications or sound devices are not to be used during class. That means no phone calls, no texting, no social media, no email, and no internet browsing at any time during class.
• Laptop computers and tablets are not to be used during class except in rare instances for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor.
• The only material you should be reading in class is material assigned for that class. Reading anything else, such as newspapers or magazines, or doing work from another class, is not acceptable.
• Class may not be recorded in any fashion – audio, video, or otherwise – without permission in writing from the instructor.

Required Texts

Weekly readings posted on NYU Classes.

Supplemental Texts

• David Armitage and Alison Bashford, eds., Pacific Histories: Ocean, Land, People (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)

Session 1  An Ocean, or a “Sea of Islands”
Thursday 5 February

Required Reading:
• Epeli Hau’ofa, “Our Sea of Islands” from We Are the Ocean: Selected Works (University of Hawai’i Press, 2008), pp. 27-40.
• Damon Salesa, “The Pacific in Indigenous Time,” in David Armitage and Alison Bashford, Pacific Histories (Palgrave, 2013)

Session 2  Dismantling Geographic Boundaries
Thursday 12 February

Required Reading:
• Clive Moore, *New Guinea: Crossing Boundaries and History* (University of Hawaii, 2003) [excerpts]

**Recommended Reading:**


**Session 3  The Pacific as Native Space**

**Thursday 19 February**

**Required Reading:**

• Shino Konishi, “‘Wanton with plenty’: Questioning ethno-historical constructions of sexual savagery in Aboriginal societies,” *Australian Historical Studies* 39:3 (2008), pp. 356 - 372

**Session 4  East Asia and the Pacific**

**Thursday 26 February**

**Required Reading:**

• Robert Marks, *Tigers, Rice, Silk, and Silt: Environment and Economy in Late Imperial South China* [excerpts]

**Session 5  Iberian Connections in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Thursday 5 March**

**Required Reading:**

• Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *The Portuguese Empire in Asia* [excerpts]
• John Tutino, “Making Global History in the Spanish Empire” in *Making a New World* pp. 1-26
Assignment: Short Essay due (20%)

Session 6    Pacific South America: Lima, Patagonia and Colonial Latin America
Thursday 12 March

Required Reading:
- Antonio Pigafetta, Magellan’s Voyage: A Narrative Account of the First Circumnavigation (excerpts)

SPRING BREAK 16 – 20 March

Session 7    Japan and the Pacific Maritime World
Thursday 26 March

Required Reading:

Session 8    The Pacific as Maritime Space
Thursday 2 April

Required Reading:
- Nicholas Thomas, “The Age of Empire in the Pacific”

Recommended Reading:

Required field trip/excursion: Mitchell Library Pacific Collections and AGNSW Pacific Art Collections
Session 9  Considering Cultural Encounters
Thursday 9 April

Required Reading:
- Inga Clendinnen, *Dancing with Strangers: Europeans and Australians at First Contact* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), chapter 1.

Recommended Reading:

Session 10  The British Pacific Imagination
Thursday 16 April

Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Required field trip/excursion: Australian National Maritime Museum

Assignment: Essay plan due (15%)

Session 11  North America and Australia in the Early 19th Century
Thursday 23 April
Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Session 12   Pacific Convergence and Rearticulation of Empires
Thursday 30 April

Required Reading:
- Sally Engle Merry, Colonizing Hawaii (Princeton University Press, 1999), chapter 1.

Session 13   A New Regional Order?
Thursday 7 May

Required Reading:
- Kaoru Sighara, “The Pacific Economy since 1800,” in David Armitage and Alison Blanford, Pacific Histories (Palgrave, 2013)
- Peter Ward Fay, Opium War, 1840-1842: Barbarians in the Celestial Empire in the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century (University of North Carolina Press, 1998), Chatper 3.

Session 14   Pacific Legacies
Thursday 14 May

Required Reading:
• Akira Iriye, “A Pacific Century?” in David Armitage and Alison Bashford, Pacific Histories (Palgrave, 2013)

Assignment: Long Essay due (40%)

Your Instructor

Dr Alecia Simmonds is the Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Law at UTS and the Book Review editor of Law and History. She is an inter-disciplinary scholar whose work on the relationship between emotion, imperialism and law in the Pacific has been published in a range of international and domestic journals. She is the author of the forthcoming book Wild Man, which will be published by Affirm Press in 2015. Her current research project, entitled Hatching, Matching and Despatching focuses on the legal regulation of intimacy in the Australasian colonies from 1788-1901.