Pacific World Histories

Class code  HIST-UA 9830 – 001

Instructor Details  Dr Alexander Cameron-Smith
ac6869@nyu.edu
Consultation by appointment
Please allow at least 24 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails.

Class Details  Spring 2017

Pacific World History

Tuesday 3:30 – 6:30pm
January 31 to May 9
Room 202
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- Critically analyse contemporary historical documents pertaining to the Pacific World, setting them in historical context.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**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short essay (1000 words)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay plan (500 words)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long essay (2,500 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class presentation (15-20 minutes)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component will result in failure of the class.

For this course your total numerical score, calculated from the components listed above, is converted to a letter grade without rounding.

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 to 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 to &lt; 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 to &lt; 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 to &lt; 87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 to &lt; 84</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 to &lt; 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 to &lt; 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 to &lt; 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 to &lt; 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65 to &lt; 67</td>
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Submission of Work

Should work be submitted as a hard copy, or electronically?
Unless otherwise specified, all written work must be submitted as a hard copy. The majority of written assignments must also be submitted electronically via NYU Classes. All in-class presentations must be completed during class time.

Who may submit a student’s work?
Each student’s assigned work must be handed in personally by that student. The student may not nominate another person to act on his/her behalf.

When and where should the work be submitted?
The hard copy of any written work must be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class on the date the work is due. If the assignment due date falls outside of class time, work must be submitted to the Staff Member on duty in Room 2.04 during prescribed Office Hours (11:30am-12:30pm and 2:30-3:30pm Mon-Thu), or by appointment with the Academic Programs Coordinator. Each submitted item of work received in Room 2.04 will be date and time stamped in the presence of the student. Work submitted in Room 2.04 will not be considered “received” unless formally stamped.

What is the Process for Late Submission of Work?
After the due date, work may only be submitted under the following conditions:

- Late work, even if an extension has been granted, must be submitted in person by appointment with the Academic Programs Coordinator. Each submitted item of work must be date and time stamped in order to be considered “received”.

- 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 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension receives a mark of zero, and the student is not entitled to feedback for that piece of work.

- Because failure to submit or fulfil any required course component will result in failure of the course, it is crucial for students to submit every assignment even when it will receive a mark of zero. Early departure from the program therefore places the student at risk of failing the course.

Plagiarism Policy

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.
It is a serious academic offense to use the work of others (written, printed or in any other form) without acknowledgement. Cases of plagiarism are not dealt with by your instructor. They are referred to the Director, who will determine the appropriate penalty (up to and including failure in the course as a whole) taking into account the codes of conduct and academic standards for NYU’s various schools and colleges.

**Attendance Policy**

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 affect students’ semester grades. The class roster will be marked at the beginning 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.

For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalised by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to two unexcused absences. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

Faculty cannot excuse an absence. Requests for absences to be excused must be directed to the Academic Programs Coordinator. Students must provide appropriate documentation for their absence. In the case of illness, students must contact the Academic Programs Coordinator on the day of absence. They must provide medical documentation to Academic Programs Coordinator within three days of the absence in order to be medically excused. The note must include a medical judgement indicating that the student was unfit to attend class/work on the specific day or dates of the absence. Faculty will be informed of excused absences by the Academic Programs staff.

**Classroom Expectations**

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.

Diversity. Inclusion and Equity

NYU is committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values – in all their facets – are, as President Andrew Hamilton has said, “…not only important to cherish for their own sake, but because they are also vital for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities.” At NYU Sydney we are committed to creating a learning environment that:

• fosters intellectual inquiry, research, and artistic practices that respectfully and rigorously take account of a wide range of opinions, perspectives, and experiences; and
• promotes an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and every member feels they have a rightful place, is welcome and respected, and is supported in their endeavours.

Religious Observance

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Academic Programs Coordinator in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Provisions to students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Centre for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

Required Texts

It is a course expectation that you have done the required reading and have prepared sufficiently to discuss them in class.


Weekly readings posted on NYU Classes.

Supplemental Texts

### Week 1  An Ocean, or a “Sea of Islands”

**Tuesday 31 January**

**Required Reading:**

**Recommended Reading:**

### PART 1: OCEANIA 18th and 19th CENTURIES

### Week 2  Considering Culture Contact: Scientific Voyagers in Tahiti as Case Study

**Tuesday 7 February**

**Required Reading:**
- Greg Denning, ‘Possessing Tahiti’ in *Performances, pp.128-167* (note that 12 of these pages are pictures)

**Task:** Select either the journal of Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (from p.253 ff or Part 2, Chapter II-III)(London, 1772), or Hawkesworth’s *An Account of the Voyages* (from p.433 ff or Chapter v) (London: Strahan and Cadell, 1773). Both of these are found in the NYU Library database at Eighteenth Century Collections Online: [http://ezproxy.library.nyu.edu:2451/ecco/start.do?prodId=ECCO&userGroupName=new64731](http://ezproxy.library.nyu.edu:2451/ecco/start.do?prodId=ECCO&userGroupName=new64731)

### Week 3  Navigating Paradise: Voyagers and their fates

**Tuesday 14 February**

**Required Reading:**
- Matt Matsuda, ‘Navigators of Polynesia and Paradise’, *Pacific Worlds*, pp. 127-144
• Marshall Sahlins, “Captain James Cook; or, The Dying God” in *Islands of History* (University of Chicago, 1985), pp. 104-135

**Task:** Go to the State Library of New South Wales and find Beaglehole’s edition of the Journals of Captain Cook. Read the account of his death in his last voyage to the Pacific Ocean and in quest of a north-west passage from 1776-1779. Flick through the accounts of his death given by the other voyagers on board (David Samwell etc.) and then decide whether Sahlins or Obeyesekere is more convincing

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**Week 4  Violence and Intimacy: Missionaries, Traders and Local Oceanian Elites**

**Tuesday 21 February**

**Required Reading:**

**Recommended Reading:**

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**PART TWO: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN THE PACIFIC**

**Week 5  Considering Cultural Encounters: Botany Bay**

**Tuesday 28 February**

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

**Task:** Go to the State Library and bring to class an excerpt from the diary of someone who was around during first contact in Australia. (Hint: mine the bibliographies of the assigned readings to find primary sources)

**Assignment: Short Essay due (20%)**
Week 6 Possessing the Pacific: Law in the early nineteenth century

Tuesday 7 March

Guest Speaker: Dr Lisa Ford

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


SPRING BREAK: 13 – 17 March (Week 7)

Week 8 Refugees and the Rearticulation of Empire: From Pacific Expansion to the Pacific Solution

Tuesday 21 March

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:

• John Ward, British policy in the South Pacific prior to the establishment of governments by the Great Powers (1786-1893): a study of British policy in the South Pacific (Sydney: Australasian Publishing Co., 1948)

Session 9 Intimate Imperialism: New Zealand

Tuesday 28 March

Required Reading:


Required field trip/excursion: State Library of New South Wales Pacific Collection
PART THREE: ASIA AND AMERICA IN THE PACIFIC

Week 10    Environmental histories in China and beyond
Tuesday 4 April

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

Assignment: Essay plan due (15%)

Week 11    Japan and the cartographic eye
Tuesday 11 April

Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Task: Maps exist in many different forms. Bring along a map, historical or contemporary, real or imagined, and explain how it creates knowledge, makes claims to territory or structures our understanding of space. Trove might be a useful source.

Week 12    Pacific South America: Lima, Patagonia and Colonial Latin America
Tuesday 18 April

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

Week 13: OCEANS OF INDUSTRY : California and the Columbia River
Friday 28 April (Make-up Class for ANZAC Day)
Required Reading:

PART FOUR: THINKING THROUGH OCEANS

Week 14     A New Regional Order

Tuesday 2 May

Required Reading:
• Kaoru Sighara, “The Pacific Economy since 1800,” in *David Armitage and Alison Bashford, Pacific Histories* (Palgrave, 2013)

Recommended Reading:

Assignment: Long Essay due (40%)

Week 15     Pacific Legacies

Tuesday 9 May

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

Your Instructor

Dr. Alexander Cameron-Smith is an historian whose research explores transnational connections in public health and science across the Pacific and Asia. He is currently a Research Affiliate at the University of Sydney on the ARC Laureate Project "Race and Ethnicity in the Global South". He previously lectured at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales and has published research articles in *Australian Historical Studies, The Journal of Australian Studies*, and *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*. He is currently revising a book manuscript for ANU Press.