The Pacific Basin is a required course at Soka University, and for good reason. While the Industrial Revolution propelled the Atlantic to world prominence in recent centuries, much of the drama of human history has unfolded in the Pacific Basin. With the rise of China and other Asian economies, as well as continued growth in the western Americas, many have dubbed the coming era as the ‘Pacific Century’. The primary objective of this course is to bring students up to speed on this complex landscape.

But is the Pacific Basin a region? This course presumes that something holds together the diverse ecosystems and peoples of Oceania, Southeast Asia, East Asia, North America, and South America. How can we conceptualize such a range of societies as a common region? For inspiration, this course looks to Haida sculptor Bill Reid’s *The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii*, pictured above. The massive sculpture, now, not coincidentally, located in the Vancouver International Airport, a lynchpin of the Pacific Basin, features a variety of animals, spirits, and persons in one massive canoe. Each figure is looking in a different direction and each seems to have distinct goals; however they are all in the same canoe, and are all somehow moving in one direction. This is the Pacific Basin—a great range of unique peoples inhabiting one great ocean, and thus facing common challenges.
POLICIES

First: I place great emphasis on constructive participation. The classroom is a place to share ideas / opinions and to challenge each other, but always respectfully: listening to fellow students; communicating effectively regarding assignments; arriving on time; avoiding insensitivities; and completing the readings. So challenge—vigorously—but never offend.

Second: teacher-student communication. I am always available via email, but if you have a general question, other students may want to hear the answer, so ask it in class. For assignments, email is no substitute for face to face chats, so come talk to me. In the event of an illness or personal emergency, you must contact me BEFORE a given deadline. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day, including weekends, beginning at the end of class.

Third: the course has a considerable online presence through Angel. Here, you will find the syllabus (which may be updated periodically), a course calendar, RSS feeds, and links to useful pages. Under the ‘Material’ tab, you will find direct links to all readings as well as overviews of previous days’ lectures.

GRADING

Soka grading is organized in terms of letter grades: A, B+, C-, etc, as well as a 0-4 grade point average. This is how the percentage points in this course will translate into these scales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;70</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READINGS


Students are also expected to purchase a novel which takes place in the Pacific Basin and which highlights political or social change. Potential novels include:


**Southeast Asia:** Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind*; Han Suyin, *And the Rain My Drink*; Multatuli, *Max Havelaar*; Cecelia Brainard, *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept*.


**Latin America:** Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; Isabel Allende, *Ines of my Soul*; Juan Gabriel Vasquez, *the Secret History of Constanguana*.

**Interregional:** Isabel Allende, *Daughter of Fortune*; Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*.

Students will also read a collection of book chapters and scholarly articles. These are available on Angel, as well as in hard copy on reserve in the library. Please let me know if you have problems accessing any reading.
## EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Regional Presentations</td>
<td>14 February – 01 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>Tuesday, 06 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Postcards</td>
<td>5, 10, or 12 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Novel Assignment</td>
<td>Thursday, 19 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Research Papers</td>
<td>Thursday, 10 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>TBA (16-22 May)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All written assignments must use standard margins, 12-point font, double-spaced. Please submit assignments to me in class (not via email). Avoid colloquial language and contractions, avoid casual online sources (including Wikis), make a clear argument (hit me over the head with it), and ensure your papers are organized in a clear way.

**Participation:** 10% of your grade will be earned through respectful participation. This means asking insightful questions, engaging with colleagues, punctuality, attendance, being attentive, and communicating with me regarding assignments. **Evaluation ongoing**

**Regional Presentation:** 10% of your grade will be earned through brief presentations in the Peoples and Places section of the course. These classes will begin with a brief overview by the instructor, and then students will elaborate on a theme of their choice related to the region in question. Students are expected to stimulate class discussion and show some creative flair. **14 February through 01 March**

**Mid-Term:** 20% of your grade will be earned through an in-class mid-term. The exam will feature multiple choice and short answer questions which will assess students’ understanding of the various regions of the Pacific Basin. **Tuesday, 06 March**

**Postcards:** 10% of your grade will be earned by designing and writing two historical postcards. They should be from the perspective of two of the following three persons: a European settler in western North America, an American in Asia, or an Asian in the Americas. This is a chance to have fun and be creative—I intend to adorn the barren walls of Mandela Hall with these! **Due 05, 10, or 12 April**

**Novel Assignments:** 10% of your grade will be earned by writing a brief (about four pages) analysis (more than simple description) of a novel of your choice which is situated in the Pacific Basin and highlights political or social change. ALL students must confirm their choice of novels by **Thursday, 15 March**. Assignment is due on **Thursday, 19 April**

**Research Papers:** 20% of your grade will be earned through a research paper (6-8 pages). The instructor will distribute a list of recommended topics early in the course. Students may also choose their own topic, but must do so in consultation with the instructor. **Due Noon, Thursday, 10 May**

**Final Examination:** 20% of your grade will be earned through writing a final exam. **Date TBA** (Students should not book travel during the examination period, 16-22 May!)
07 February  
Tuesday  
Session 01  
**Introduction**  
What is the Pacific Basin?  
Regions, countries, and peoples of this course  
Readings  
AND  

09 February  
Thursday  
Session 02  
**Is the Pacific Basin a Region?**  
The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii  
Ecosystems, Whale Migration, a Region of Regions  
Readings  
AND  

**People & Places**  
What are the major cultures / regions of the Pacific Basin? In this section, we will introduce broad regions within the Pacific Basin: Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, East Asia, First Nations, American Empires, and European settler states.

14 February  
Tuesday  
Session 03  
**Pacific Islands**  
Maoris, Melanesians, Polynesians, Countries  
Student Presentations  
Readings  

16 February  
Thursday  
Session 04  
**Southeast Asia**  
Malays, Thais, Vietnamese, Countries  
Student Presentations  
Readings  

21 February  
Tuesday  
Session 05  
**East Asia**  
Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Countries  
Student Presentations  
Readings  

23 February  
Thursday  
Session 06  
**North American First Nations**  
Haida, Nisga’a, Coast Salish, Plains  
Student Presentations  
Readings  
### 28 February

**Tuesday**  
**Session 07**

**Indigenous Empires**  
Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas  
**Student Presentations**  

**Readings**  

### 01 March

**Thursday**  
**Session 08**

**European Settler States**  
United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America  
**Student Presentations**  

**Readings**  

### ***Mid-Term Examination (Tuesday, 06 March)***

**Interactions**

How have the peoples and polities of the Pacific Basin interacted with one another? What have been the effects of this interaction, and how has it changed over time? What does this mean for the future?

### 08 March

**Thursday**  
**Session 10**

**Pre-European**  
What did pre-colonial regional interactions look like?  
*Land Bridge, Cheng Ho, Trade Winds, Spice Trade, Outriggers, Slave Trade*  

**Readings**  

### 13 March

**Tuesday**  
**Session 11**

**European Contact & Competition**  
Russian Fur Traders, Spanish Explorers, French and English, Metis, Lewis and Clark  

**Readings**  

### 15 March

**Thursday**  
**Session 12**

**Colonialism: Americas**  
Colonialism as Settlement  
*Disease, Conquest, Residential Schools, The Oregon Trail, Railways, the Gold Rush*  

**Readings**  
**AND / OR**  

### ***Spring Break (19-23 March)***

### 27 March

**Tuesday**  
**Session 13**

**British Columbia**  
Shane’s Stomping Grounds…  

**Readings**  
Jean Barman, *The West Beyond the West: A History of British Columbia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996); Ch. One, pp. 3-12, Ch. Five, pp. 72-98.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05 April</td>
<td>Session 16</td>
<td>Europeans in the Americas</td>
<td>Anthony Pagden, European Encounters with the New World (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993); Chapter One, pp. 17-51.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>Session 17</td>
<td>Americans in Asia</td>
<td>Jonathan D. Spence, To Change China: Western Advisors in China (New York: Penguin Books, 1980); Chapter 8, pp. 205-227.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Session 19</td>
<td>Enclaves</td>
<td>David Lai, Chinatowns: Towns within Cities in Canada (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1988); Introduction, pp. 3-11, Chapter Three, pp. 34-51.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Themes**
What are some of the common themes across the Pacific Basin? Of an infinite number of potential topics, this section will look at regional art, indigenous movements, climate change, political-economic change, and globalization.

***Novel Assignments Due (19 April)***
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session 20</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Brief Novel Presentations</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Enrichment Hypothesis, Haida Art, Emily Carr, Gauguin</td>
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<td>None</td>
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</table>
### 24 April
**Tuesday**
**Session 21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indigenous Movements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is indigenous? How can indigenous groups protect their heritage?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonardo Peltier, AIM, Dayakology, Nisga’a Treaty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**

### 26 April
**Thursday**
**Session 22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rising Tides</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does climate change impact the Pacific Basin?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands, glaciers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**
Carol Farbotko, “*Wishful Sinking: Disappearing Islands, Climate Refugees, and Cosmopolitan Experimentation*,” *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 51:1 (2010); pp. 47-60.

### 01 May
**Tuesday**
**Session 23**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rising China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does the growth of China impact the Pacific Basin?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources, ASEAN +3, interdependency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**

### 03 May
**Thursday**
**Session 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Globalization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globalization vs Glocalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**

### ***Trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano (Saturday, 05 May)***

**Conclusions**

### 08 May
**Tuesday**
**Session 25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the Pacific Basin?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Pacific Century, Soka’s mission, Global Citizenship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**

### ***Research Paper Due (Thursday, 10 May)***

### 10 May
**Thursday**
**Session 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Optional)</td>
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</table>

**Readings**
None

### ***Final Exam Period (16-22 May)***