History 415 / 515 examines the environmental history of the world’s largest geographical feature – the Pacific Ocean. This class is simultaneously an investigation into the origins of the Pacific’s current ecological crises, the foundations of oceanic identities from New Zealand to Alaska, and the multiple ways of understanding the ocean. We will be reading historical, anthropological, and scientific research and weighing the merits of each approach. Mondays will be focused on lecture, whereas Wednesdays will be primarily devoted to discussion.
**Required Texts:**


ред = Required Readings

ี้ = For Further Research

**Assignments (515 students please consult with professor):**

1) 1 Map Quiz (10%) – January 23

2) 8 Reading Quizzes (25%)

Each Wednesday at the beginning of class you will be given a very short quiz with one question covering either that week’s reading or content from the Monday lecture. A list of possible questions will be distributed the previous week. Your lowest two quiz scores from the semester will be dropped. There are no makeup quizzes.

2) 2 Essays (65% - first essay 30%, second essay 35%)

The first essay is due **Feb 17 by 5:00 pm** and should answer the question: “What were the major similarities and / or differences between human conceptions and interactions with the Pacific Ocean before c. 1900? You should consider where or if to draw the major differences (i.e. between North and South Pacific, indigenous vs. non-indigenous, pre-contact vs. post-contact, etc) as well as attempt to offer an explanation for the differences or similarities.” Use at least 3 outside readings in addition to assigned readings. Papers should be c. 5 – 7 pages long, double-spaced.

The second essay is due on **March 23, by 5:00 pm**. This essay involves more substantial secondary research and include at least 5 outside readings in addition to the assigned readings. Topics should be chosen in consultation with the professor and relate to one of the themes discussed in the second half of the class. Papers should be 8 – 10 pages long, double-spaced.
Map Quiz Terms

2. Kuroshio Current           15. Kodiak Island
3. Humboldt Current           16. Polynesian Triangle
4. Aleutian Islands           17. Tlingit people
5. Tasmania                   18. Makah people
7. Kororareka                 20. Tuamotu
8. Midway Atoll               21. Tuvalu
10. Ainu people               23. Kotzebue
11. Viti Levu                 24. Emperor Seamounts
12. Pearl River Delta         25. Challenger Deep
13. Wallace’s Line
CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK 1  PACIFIC GEOGRAPHIES IN MOTION

Jan 9  Introduction


Jan 11  Ecologies of Colonization


WEEK 2  CULTURAL ECOLOGIES OF COLONIZATION

Jan 16  ***** No class – Martin Luther King Day Holiday *****

Jan 18  North Pacific Colonial Ecologies


© Judith Roche and Meg McHutchinson, eds., First Fish, First People: Salmon Tales of the North Pacific Rim. Seattle, 1998.


WEEK 3  THE NATURE OF ENCOUNTER

Jan 23  Pacific Cultural Ecologies  **** Map Quiz ****


Jan 25  European Cultural Ecologies


 Archibald Menzies, “Journal” excerpts
 https://ia802703.us.archive.org/7/items/menziesjournalof1792menz/menziesjournalof1792menz.pdf

 Charles Mann, “Lovesick Grass, Foreign Tubers, and Jade Rice,” in 1493


WEEK 4  SCRAPING THE SEA

Jan 30  Above the Waterline, above the Equator


☐ Andrew P. Johnson, “The Battle of Sitka,” in Dauenhauers and Black, eds., Anooshi Lingit Kaa


Feb 1  Below the Waterline, below the Equator


☐ Marry Wallis, Chapter V, Life in Fiji: Five Years among the Cannibals (Boston, 1851). http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-HeaLife-t1-body-d5.html#n104


WEEK 5  THE WHALE

Feb 6  The Whale in the Pacific Ocean

🎯 Bathsheba Demuth, “Ocean”

🎯 David Haines, “The Harpoon’s Head,” in The Lives of Colonial Objects (Dunedin, 2016)


Feb 8  The Whale in the Pacific Imagination

🎯 Herman Melville, Moby Dick, Selections
WEEK 6  STATES AND MISTAKES

Feb 13  Borders and Blunders (Lissa Wadewitz visit)

Lissa Wadewitz, “‘Policing the Border,’” in The Nature of Borders


Kayano Shigeru, Our Land Was a Forest: An Ainu Memoir.


Feb 15  No Class  ******** Essay 1 due  Feb 17 ************
WEEK 7  WARS UNNATURAL

Feb 20  Ocean and Militarization


Feb 22  War and Development


- Carmel Finley, *All the Fish in the Sea: Maximum Sustainable Yield and the Failure of Fisheries Management*. Chicago, 2011.
- Jacob Darwin Hamblin, *Cold War Oceanography*
WEEK 8  ECOLOGY OF DECOLONIZATION

Feb 27  Nuclear and Petroleum Adventures


Mar 1  Decolonization

William Iggiagruk Hensley, Fifty Miles from Tomorrow, Selections.


Mar 3 / 4 VISIT TO OREGON MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
WEEK 9  PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTALISM

Mar 6  Wilderness and Ecology


John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts, Chapters 16 and 21, in *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*


Mar 8  Radical Pacific Environmentalism


WEEK 10 THE ENLARGING OCEAN

Mar 13 Slow Disasters


Mar 15 Fast Disasters


Lani Wendt Young, Pacific Tsunami “Galu Alfi”

March 23 ******** Final Essay Due ********