



Australian  
National  
University



## DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AFFAIRS UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

### Teaching

Students undertaking undergraduate study with the Department of Pacific Affairs (DPA) formerly the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program work under the guidance of some of the world's leading experts on the Pacific. You will have access to cutting edge research that reflects the contemporary reality of the region.

DPA is committed to encouraging and developing a new generation of researchers working on the Pacific. We use innovative teaching methods, challenging students to 'think outside the box' and to look at things from different and critical perspectives. A multidisciplinary unit, DPA has staff with backgrounds in political science, anthropology, geography, law, development studies and gender-studies. Please get in touch if you have any questions about DPA's teaching courses: [dpa@anu.edu.au](mailto:dpa@anu.edu.au)

ANU College of  
Asia & the Pacific

### Semester 1

#### **PASI1011**

##### **Pacific Encounters: An Introduction to Pacific Studies**

Rochelle Bailey & Roannie Ng Shiu

2018/19: Semester 1

Pacific encounters provides an introduction to debates that shape how we conceptualise and think about the Pacific region and its peoples. The course is built around three learning modules - the past, present and future. We examine the voyages that brought people to the region, as well as colonisation and its impact on the region. The focus on the present examines recent voyages that Pacific people have taken to Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and how Pacific cultures and identities have evolved over time and place. Finally, we consider how the past and the present can help us imagine the future.

#### **PASI2003**

##### **Environment and Development in the Pacific**

Meg Keen & Paul D'Arcy

2018/19: Semester 1

The course examines the contemporary relationships between environment,

development and conflict in the cultural area known as "Melanesia", with a particular focus on the independent nations of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Teaching and learning are organised around three case applied studies in which groups of students take the lead in directing the enquiry. The broad topics of the case studies are land and development, conflict, and Australia's ongoing engagements with the Pacific. The course engages the disciplinary lenses of geography, anthropology and to a lesser extent, political science.

#### **POLS2055**

##### **Pacific Politics**

Stewart Firth & Kerryn Baker

2018/19: Semester 1

The success of politics and political systems in the Pacific Islands is measured by their capacity to deliver development in poor states. We explore this dynamic by looking at the politics of development and the development of politics. In the first half of the course we examine the politics of development, with reference to the impact of colonialism, decolonisation and secessionism; the place of the Island countries in

international politics, especially in relation to the rise of China in the Pacific and the response of the USA; the political impact of official development assistance; and tensions between 'traditional' and 'modern' modes of governance. In the second half of the course we investigate the development of politics, including attempts to engineer development outcomes via constitutions and electoral systems; intervention in Island countries by outside powers such as Australia; the phenomenon of state-building, particularly in ethnically divided societies; and women's representation in politics.

### **STST2003**

#### **Australia and Security in the Pacific Islands**

James Batley, Sinclair Dinnen & Meg Keen

*2018/19: Semester 1*

In 1999 SDSC's Emeritus Professor Paul Dibb coined the term 'arc of instability' to describe the island chain to the north of Australia, ranging from Indonesia through the Pacific islands to New Zealand. Although this idea is contested, the Australian government consistently identifies this arc as the region from or through which a security threat to Australia could most easily be posed. As a result, Australia is engaged in extensive efforts to support stability and security in this region, which is the site of the majority of Australia's military deployments, policing operations and development expenditure.

This course critically analyses the security challenges facing this arc, and the efforts Australia is taking to secure the region. These efforts include transnational crime and counterterrorism cooperation, natural disaster response, intervention and stabilisation, criminal justice assistance, governance capacity-building and development assistance. It considers the implications of the whole-of-government approach taken by the government. It also assesses the outlook over the next decade for security in this strategically important region.

### **Semester 2**

#### **ASIA2093**

#### **Natural Resource Conflicts in Asia and the Pacific**

Paul D'Arcy

*2018/19: Semester 2*

Violent conflicts over natural resources are an enduring feature of social and

political life at different scales and levels of organisation. The inter-state and geopolitical dimensions of conflicts over resources such as oil and water loom large in the popular imaginary. However, resource conflicts in the global South are predominantly fought internally, within the boundaries of the nation-state. It is these sorts of conflicts that are the focus of this course.

The course is structured around a series of case studies drawn from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. A political ecology framework is applied to the analysis of how land and different types of resource complexes - including mining, oil and gas, forestry, and oil palm - can be implicated in violent conflict. Alongside these case studies, students undertake their own analysis of a natural resource conflict in which they are attentive to the role of different actors - especially the state, communities and corporations - and to questions of scale, power and identity.

#### **PASI2002**

#### **Australia in Oceania in the 19th and 20th Centuries**

Vicki Luker

*2018: Semester 2*

Is Australia just one big Pacific Island? In this course we tease this core question by exploring the history of Australia and Oceania - with a special focus on the island Pacific - through the 'long' 19th and 20th centuries. As a preliminary, we look at Australia and the Pacific in 'deep time', outlining the initial waves of human settlement and prehistoric mobility, before tackling major themes of Australia's interactions with the island world: through European expansion and first encounters; the thickening relationships of trade, missionisation and formal colonialism in the 19th century; the world wars; the post war period; the era of independence; and developments of the late 20th and early 21st centuries - including Australia's 'interventions' in the Pacific, the growth of Australia's own Pasifika populations, and changing perceptions of Australia in the region.

#### **PASI3001**

#### **The Contemporary Pacific: Society, Politics and Development**

Roannie Ng Shiu & Kerry Baker

*2018/19: Semester 2*

This course aims to enhance understanding of the current challenges and opportunities facing the Pacific

Islands region, and in particular Pacific Island cultural approaches these challenges and opportunities. It is designed for later year undergraduates, graduate students, development practitioners and policy-makers. The course examines a range of issues, including: conflict, corruption and democracy; urbanisation, labour mobility and migration; regionalism and the interests of external powers; cultural policy, popular culture, the arts and human development; and globalisation and the environment.

#### **SOCY2022**

#### **Environmental Sociology in Australia and the Pacific**

Paul D'Arcy & Alastair Greig

*2018/19: Semester 2*

Environmental sociology examines the relationships between people and their natural and built environments. It focuses on questions such as: how environmental problems are known, defined and acted upon; why some potentially important issues are largely ignored; the role of institutions and economic networks in shaping relationships with the non-human environment; how different social groups are affected by environmental problems and controversies; and the role of social movements in promoting positive environmental change. While the course covers many topical issues, there is a major focus on developing the conceptual skills to apply a sociological imagination to a much wider variety of environmental issues.

#### **ASIA2097**

#### **Global Learning**

Nicole Haley & Roannie Ng Shiu

*2018/19: Winter*

This course provides an opportunity for students to participate in a range of different learning abroad opportunities offered by the Coral Bell School each year. Opportunities may include faculty-led study tours, as well as programs delivered by partner institutions. Details of the 2018 course will be advertised during Semester One. Opportunities to participate in this course will be made available through a competitive selection process. Students participating in this course will receive funding support through the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific Engage Asia Travel Guarantee.