



The University of Sydney

# GEOS3512

## Contemporary Global Geographies

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**Classes:** Lectures      Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11am-12pm  
                 Tutorial      Wednesday or Thursday, 12-2pm

### Course Synopsis & Aims

This unit of study considers issues of development, the environment, sustainability, and interaction between the three. Primarily focused on South-East and North Asia, with references to regional identities, investigation of these topics will begin with an overview of the region's history - particularly its cultural diversity and inter-regional relationships. These issues are further considered through an examination of politics, economics, human movement and urban environments within the region.

Lectures will examine issues from a broad regional perspective as well as focus on case studies. Tutorials will involve readings and student-led debate on a number of matters that are an extension of the weekly lectures. Overall, the course is designed to engage students in conceptual debates, problem-solving, research, and geographic methodologies.

## Objectives

The objectives of this course are

1. Examine issues of development, the environment, sustainability, and interaction between the three
2. Provide students the opportunity to lead debate on these issues through research and tutorial presentation
3. Engage students in conceptual debates, problem-solving, research and geographic methodologies

## Assessment

Mid-term exam: 30%

Tutorial presentation and 1,500 word report: 25%

Course participation: 15%

Final exam: 30%

\*Advanced students should consult the Unit Coordinator for details of their course assessment.

## Fieldwork

N/A

## Lecture Outline

Week 1	Course outline/ Defining the region
Week 2	Cultural diversity: origins and implications/ Pre-colonialism, imperialism and post-colonialism
Week 3	Borders, relationships and conflicts/ Australia's place in the region
Week 4	Migration and development in the Asia-Pacific
Week 5	Urban environments/ The quest for global cities
Week 6	Mid-term exam/ Dragons and tigers: Asian entrepreneurship
Week 7	Ethnicity versus nation-state: access to development funding, authority and negotiation
Week 8	Development refugees/ Case study: The Three Gorges Dam
Week 9	Protected areas: conservation as exclusion
Week 10	Linkages between the environment and development – sustainable development with a focus on community development
Week 11	Poverty and conservation
Week 12	Tourism as a form of development/ Case study: Selling Cambodia?
Week 13	Course overview and conclusion/ Final exam

## Tutorial Outline

Week 1	NO TUTORIAL
Week 2	Contributions or scars; continued conflict or reconciliation?
Week 3	Australia, trade practices and foreign policy vis-à-vis the Asia Pacific
Week 4	The positive and negative effects of inter-regional migration
Week 5	Emergence and sustainability of urban environments
Week 6	The global role of Asian economies: is there a local benefit?
Week 7	Development: who has the authority?
Week 8	The costs and benefits of development and human resettlement
Week 9	Is “fortress” conservation viable? Is it necessary? Is it ethical?
Week 10	Community-based natural resource management as a strategy for meeting human and conservation needs
Week 11	Can conservation contribute to poverty reduction? Should it?
Week 12	Tourism as an economic industry
Week 13	NO TUTORIAL

## Required Texts/Reading List

There is a course pack for this unit containing all of the tutorial readings. Students must use this resource as well as the below-listed required readings.

### A) Books

Camilleri, Joseph A. (2003) *Regionalism in the new Asia-Pacific order*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.

Connell, John and Waddell, Eric (Eds.) (2007) *Environment, development and change in rural Asia-Pacific: between local and global*, Routledge, London.

Connors, Michael K., Davison, Remy and Dosch, Jorn. (2004) *The new global politics of the Asia-Pacific*, Routledge, New York and London.

Crump, Thomas. (2007) *Asia-Pacific*, Hambledon Continuum, London and New York.

Fisher, R.J., Maginnis, Stewart, Jackson, W.J., Barrow, Edmund, and Jeanrenaud, Sally. (2005)

*Poverty and Conservation: Landscapes, People and Power*. UK: IUCN The World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge.

Available online at:

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/publications/livelihoods.htm>

Hirsch, Phil, Beck, Tony, et al. (1991) *Asia-Pacific focus: people and environment in change*, Jacaranda Press, Milton.

Rumley, Dennis. (1999) *The geopolitics of Australia's regional relations*, Kluwer, Dordrecht.

Tan, Andrew T.H. (2004) *A Political and economic dictionary of south-east Asia*, Europa, London.

## **B) Journal articles**

Carmichael, Gordon A. (1997) 'Population and development in the Asia Pacific region: an introduction,' *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, Vol. 38, No.3, pp. 187-191.

Hull, Terence H. (1997) 'The setting: demographic mosaic of the Asia Pacific region-issues defining the future,' *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, Vol. 38, No.3, pp. 193-199.

Poon, Jessie P H. (2001) 'Regionalism in the Asia Pacific: is geography destiny?' *Area*, Vol. 33, Iss. 3, pp. 252-260.