Course Description: In the eighteenth century a confluence of political and scientific endeavors triggered a concerted European exploration of the largest geographical feature on earth: the Pacific Ocean. Our course will explore the historical implications resulting from these ventures to the Pacific. As a reading seminar, you will interpret important primary and secondary sources in connection with these eighteenth-century voyages. A final paper enables you to explore a particular island group or European voyage in greater detail. Prominent topics to be considered in our class will include: The impact of Europeans on Oceania and the wider Pacific Rim and the transformations of European intellectual outlooks resulting from the uncovering of the Pacific Ocean.

Participation and Attendance: Regular and timely attendance of all class meetings is a main requirement of the class. Attendance also requires that you do all the readings indicated on the syllabus. Be prepared to engage class discussions as much of your grade depends on it. There are no excused absences without proper documentation (e.g., medical excuse). Four unexcused absences will result in the loss of 50 points from your course total. Six or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class.

Short Discussion Paper: During our discussion sessions you are required to write a short (one-page) paper on the readings listed on the syllabus. The paper should assist you with class participation. The paper should list two discussion questions drawn from the articles and chapters assigned for the corresponding week. Each question should be followed by an extensive paragraph outlining a possible answer to your query. Only eight assignments will be graded. The assignment is due at the beginning of class (Tuesday) and will be collected promptly. You have to hand in the discussion paper in person and I will accept no electronic submission (via e-mail or otherwise).

Leading Discussions: During one particular session of your choice you will be asked to facilitate in-class discussion. In other words, you are responsible for all of the readings assigned that week. Make sure to prepare a good number of relevant questions to assist you in the task. Keep in mind that you discussion questions do not replace the short paper.

Term Paper and Associated Assignments: The main objective of this course is to write a paper of about 20-25 pages in length (please note that the bibliography does not count toward the page total). To prepare you for this assignment, you have to hand in a paper proposal and associated bibliography on the date indicated in this syllabus. For your paper, I would like you to select a particular expedition (e.g., Bougainville or La Perouse) or a particular island or island group (e.g., Hawai‘i or Tonga) and discuss the cultural
implications and interactions emerging from the encounters between Europeans and indigenous people. The due date for the final paper is December 14th at noon, but you may hand it in earlier.

**A note on computers and hand-held devices:** As a courtesy to others please turn off your cell phones during class time. Computers may be used for note taking purposes only. If you decide to use the computer for any other purpose, you will lose your privilege immediately.

**Grading** is based on a point scale. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Term Paper</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal and Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Discussion</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 small papers</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale:

- 400 - 395 = A+; 394 - 370 = A; 371 - 360 = A- 359 - 350 = B+
- 349-330 = B 329-320; = B- 319-310 = C+; 309-291 = C
- 289-280 = C-; 279-270 = D+; 269-240 = D; Less than 240 = F


**Cheating / Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

**Disclaimer:**

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above and below stated requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.
Tentative Course Schedule:

**Week 1** (August 24-26): Introduction

**Week 2** (August 31-September 2): The Dual Discovery of the Pacific

**Week 3** (Sept. 7-9): The mythical Pacific:

**Week 4** (Sept. 14-16): New Diplomatic Frontiers

**Week 5** (Sept. 21-23): The Manilla Galleon Trade

**Week 6** (Sept 28-30): New Scientific Horizons

**Week 7** (Oct. 5-7): Exploration before James Cook

**Week 8** (Oct. 12-14): Cook: First Voyage
**October 12 is a holiday.**
**Read:** Edwards 7-212
Week 9 (Oct. 19-21): Cook: First and Second Voyage
Read: Edwards, 213-422

Week 10 (Oct 26-28): Cook: Second and Third Voyage
Read: Edwards, 423-613

Week 11 (Nov. 2-4): Cook Third Voyage
November 4th is research day

Week 12 (Nov. 9-11): Cook’s voyages and beyond
November 11th discussion guided by Professor Marja van Tilburg of Groenigen University
Readings: TBA

Week 13 (Nov. 16-18): Paper proposal and bibliography due
Paper discussion
Your paper proposal and annotated bibliography is due this week

Week 14 (Nov. 23-25): Research week and Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 (Nov 30-Dec 2): Tahiti I: The Primary Evidence
Read: “The Noble Savage” in Richard Lansdown, Strangers in the South Seas

Week 16 (Dec. 7-9): Tahiti II: The Secondary Evidence

Paper due December 14th at noon (no exceptions)