

Introduction to Asian American History
HIST 2640 / AAS 2130 / AMST 2130
Fall 2012
MWF 12:20-1:10
RCK 115

Instructor:

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Hours: Wed. 9:00-10:30

TA:

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the history of Asians in the United States from the mid-19th century to the beginning of the 21st century. We will explore immigration, community formation, racism and resistance, the lives of workers, the experiences of women, the role of imperialism, the influence of global politics and economics, and struggles for equality and justice. Key events covered include the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Philippine War, Japanese Internment and World War II, the Asian American Movement, the murder of Vincent Chin, and labor organizing.

The course has four main aims: (1) to introduce students to the major themes and basic chronology of Asian American history; (2) to provide a critical perspective on the conventional narrative American history – a narrative that largely excludes Asian Americans; (3) to analyze the Asian American past within a context of power relations, especially hierarchies of race, gender, and class; and (4) to examine the continuities and discontinuities between the Asian American past and present.

Requirements

1. Attendance and participation: Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 5 classes, you will forfeit the entire portion of the final grade designated for attendance and participation. (20%)

Students may be asked to attend lectures by guest speakers. A class will be cancelled for each corresponding lecture. Attendance at these lectures will be required unless there is an unavoidable scheduling conflict, but students must inform the instructor of the conflict well ahead of time.

2. Questions for Class Discussions. Each student will be asked to submit at least two (2) discussion questions to a Blackboard discussion board by Sunday at 8:00 p.m. the day before the first class of the week. The questions should be broad and designed to encourage conversation, discussion, and/or debate. Failure to submit more than 3 sets of questions will result in the forfeiture of the entire portion of the final grade designated for these questions. (15%)
3. Take-home Exam. Due by 12:20 p.m. on October 5th. (20%)
4. Group Project. Due the final day of classes. (20%)

5. Final Exam. (25%)

If you have any questions during the semester about your performance in any area of the course, please see the instructor or the teaching assistant to discuss your concerns. If you are unable to make the regularly scheduled office hours, please email to arrange an appointment.

Academic Integrity

For all assignments, students are required to abide by Cornell University's Code of Academic Integrity. A copy of the code can be found at the following url:

<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>. Violations of the Code of Academic Integrity, especially plagiarism, may result in a failing grade in the course. Students are urged to read and complete the exercises on "Recognizing and Avoiding Plagiarism" at <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>.

Required Texts on Blackboard

Readings, either as downloadable pdf files or as links to on-line journals, are available electronically on the course's Blackboard site. Access is restricted to registered students in the class. You can access Blackboard at the following url:

<http://www.blackboard.cornell.edu/>.

Hard copies of the readings will also be available at the Asian American Studies Resource Center in 422 Rockefeller Hall. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Resource Center may add periodic evening hours during the semester. Please contact the staff for more information: aasp@cornell.edu or (607) 255-3320.

The AASRC also has extensive book and video libraries, which may be useful for research projects and/or additional readings. Check out the AARC website for additional information: asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/resources/index.cfm.

Class Schedule

(Please note that reading assignments are subject to change, but ample warning will always be provided.)

Introductions & Frameworks

Week 1 Who & What

8/22 Whose History Matters?

8/24 Which History Matters?

Week 2 How

Read: *Espiritu*, Asian American Women & Men, Chapter 2
Daniels, “No Lamps Were Lit for Them,” Journal of American Ethnic History
Okibiro, Columbia Guide to Asian American History, Chapter 1
Hune, “Introduction: Through ‘Our’ Eyes,” Asian/Pacific Islander American Women

8/27 Asian American History’s History

8/29 The Problem of the Nation

8/31 The Problem of the Transnational

Week 3 Deep Roots

Read: *Prashad*, The Karma of Brown Folk, Preface, Chapters 1-3
Okibiro, “When & Where I Enter,” Margins & Mainstreams
Selected documents

9/3 LABOR DAY

9/5 “Knowing” Asians

9/7 Race, Nation, Culture

Week 4 Migrations & Settlements

Read: *Bonacich*, “Some Basic Facts,” Labor Immigration Under Capitalism
Hsu, Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home, Chapters 1-2
Glenn, Issei, Nisei, War Bride, Chapter 2
Azuma, Between Two Empires, Chapter 2
Azuma, “Japanese American Farmers,” California History
Kim, “Korean Independence Movement”
Buenaventura, “The Colors of Manifest Destiny”
Chan, “Introduction,” Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America
by Mary Paik Lee

9/10 Migratory Patterns

9/12 Empire

9/14 Building Community

Week 5 Exclusions

Read: *Okibiro*, Columbia Guide to Asian American History, Chapter 2
Gotanda, "Exclusion and Inclusion"
Ngai, "The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law," Journal of American History
Gyory, "The Significance of Chinese Exclusion"
Saito, "Alien and Non-Alien Alike," Oregon Law Journal

9/17 Alienage

9/19 Violence

9/21 Immigration Exclusion

Week 6 World War II

Read: *Lee*, "Japanese Internment," Theory & Event
Smith, "New Deal Public Works at War," Pacific Historical Review
Nakanishi, "Surviving Democracy's 'Mistake,'" Amerasia Journal
Aoki, "No Right to Own?" Boston College Third World Law Journal
Gonzalves, "Filipino Veterans of World War II"
Wong, Americans First, Chapter 3
Yung, Unbound Feet, Chapter 5

9/24 War & Citizenship: Enemy Aliens

9/26 War & Citizenship: Internment

9/28 War & Citizenship: Allies?

Week 7 Post War America

Read: *Wu*, "America's Chinese," Pacific Historical Review
Ngai, "Legacies of Exclusion," Journal of American Ethnic History

10/1 New Enemies, Same Racism

10/3 Reds & Yellow

10/5 Take Home Exam DUE

Week 8 Becoming Asian American

Read: *Espiritu*, Asian American Panethnicity, Chapter 2
Iijima, "Make It Snappy!" in Legacy to Liberation
Aoki, Interviewed by Dolly Veale in Legacy to Liberation

- 10/8 FALL BREAK
- 10/10 Film: "San Francisco State On Strike"
- 10/12 The Asian American Movement
- Week 9 Activism**
- Read: *Kao*, "Three Step Boogie in 1970s Los Angeles," Amerasia Journal
Kochiyama et al., "Stirrin' the Waters 'n Buildin' Bridges," Amerasia Journal
 Selected Documents
- 10/15 Racial Rearticulation
- 10/17 Film: "Vincent Who?"
- 10/19 Who Is Asian American (circa 1970)?
- Week 10 Immigration Reform**
- Read: *Ngai*, Impossible Subjects, Chapter 7
Cheng, "Out of Chinatown and Into the Suburbs," American Quarterly
- 10/22 1965
- 10/24 The Transformation of Asian America
- 10/26 No Class
- Week 11 Vietnam**
- Read: *Freeman and Welaratna*, "Vietnamese and Cambodian Views of 'Successful' Adjustment in America"
Vo, "Managing Survival"
Chan, "Scarred, Yet Undefeated"
 Selected Documents
- 11/5 War & Migration
- 11/7 State Selection
- 11/9 The Problem of Class
- Week 12 Class & Race**
- Read: *Wang*, "Asian Americans and Debates About Affirmative Action"
Espiritu, Asian American Panethnicity, Chapters 3-5
Das Gupta, Unruly Immigrants, Introduction & Chapter 1
Bao, "Politicizing Motherhood"
Khandelval, "Opening Spaces"
- 11/12 Affirmative Action & Asian Americans

11/14 Labor Activism

11/16 Defining the Political

Week 13 Politics: Identity & Otherwise

Read: To be determined

11/19 Oral History and Democratic Scholarship

11/21 Thanksgiving Break

11/23 Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 Politics: Identity & Otherwise

Read: *Kim*, "Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans," Politics & Society
Okibiro, "Is Yellow Black or White?" in Margins and Mainstreams
Okibiro, "Perils of the Mind and Body," in Margins and Mainstreams
Prashad, The Karma of Brown Folk, Chapters 5 and 9
Leong, et al., "Resilient History and the Rebuilding of a Community," Journal of American History

11/26 Model Minority: Political Discourse & Race

11/28 Community, Experience, & Politics: A Case Study

11/30 Wrapping Up