

# Introduction to Asian American History

HIST 2640 / AAS 2130 / AMST 2130

Fall 2016

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:40-12:55

Uris 202

## Instructor:

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Hours: Wed. 9:15-10:30 & by appointment

## Teaching Assistant:

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Hours: Tues. 3-5

## Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the history of Asians in the United States from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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. After the first week of the semester, if you miss more than 4 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, film screenings, and other events. A class will be cancelled for each corresponding event. Attendance at these events 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 Monday at 12:00 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 18<sup>th</sup>. (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**

*For Purchase at Buffalo Street Books (see attached sheet, or visit <http://www.buffalostreetbooks.com/#!students/cuiy>)*

Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, *A New History of Asian America* (NY: Routledge, 2014)

Henry Kiyama and Frederik L. Schodt, *The Four Immigrants Manga: A Japanese Experience in San Francisco, 1904-1924* (Stone Bridge Press, graphic edition, 1999).

### ***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](mailto: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](http://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, and How**

8/23      Whose History Matters? What History Matters?

8/25      Asian American History's History

#### **Week 2      Deep Roots & Critical Concepts**

Read:      *Lee, A New History*, Chapter 1  
*Okibiro, Columbia Guide to Asian American History*, Chapter 1  
*Okibiro, "When & Where I Enter," Margins & Mainstreams*  
Selected documents

8/30      "Knowing" Asians

9/1      Race, Nation, and Culture

#### **Week 3      Migrations**

Read:      *Lee, A New History*, Chapter 2  
*Kiyama, Four Immigrants Manga*, pp. 1-73

9/6      Global Forces & Patterns

9/8      Settlers and Sojourners?

#### **Week 4      Communities**

Read:      *Lee, A New History*, Chapters 3 & 4  
*Kiyama, Four Immigrants Manga*, pp. 74-133

9/13      Labor & Life

9/15      Building Community

#### **Week 5      Exclusions**

Read:      *Lee, A New History*, Chapters 5 & 6  
*Ngai, "The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law," Journal of American History*

9/20      Alienage and Its Consequences

9/22      Response and Resistance

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>The Second Generation &amp; Modernity</b>
Read:	<i>Lee</i> , <u><i>A New History</i></u> , Chapter 7 <i>Yoo</i> , “Introduction,” <u><i>Growing Up Nisei</i></u> <i>Matsumoto</i> , “Urban Nisei Culture” <i>Yung</i> , selected chapters, <u><i>Unbound Feet</i></u> Selected documents
9/27	Born in America
9/29	The “New Woman”
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>World War II</b>
Read:	<i>Lee</i> , <u><i>A New History</i></u> , Chapter 8 <i>Smith</i> , “New Deal Public Works at War,” <u><i>Pacific Historical Review</i></u> <i>Nakanishi</i> , “Surviving Democracy’s ‘Mistake,’” <u><i>Amerasia Journal</i></u> <i>Gonzalves</i> , “Filipino Veterans of World War II” <i>Wong</i> , <u><i>Americans First</i></u> , Chapter 3 <i>Yung</i> , <u><i>Unbound Feet</i></u> , Chapter 5
10/4	War & Citizenship: Enemy Aliens & Internment
10/6	War & Citizenship: Allies?
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Post-War America</b>
Read:	<i>Lee</i> , <u><i>A New History</i></u> , Chapter 9 <i>Wu</i> , “America’s Chinese,” <u><i>Pacific Historical Review</i></u> <i>Ngai</i> , “Legacies of Exclusion,” <u><i>Journal of American Ethnic History</i></u>
10/11	FALL BREAK
10/13	Yellow & Red
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Vietnam &amp; Immigration Reform</b>
Read:	<i>Lee</i> , <u><i>A New History</i></u> , Chapters 10 & 12 <i>Ngai</i> , <u><i>Impossible Subjects</i></u> , Chapter 7 <i>Vo</i> , “Managing Survival” <i>Chan</i> , “Scarred, Yet Undeclared” Selected Documents
10/18	War and a New Migration TAKE HOME EXAM DUE
10/20	1965 and the (Slow) Transformation of Asian America

- Week 10**      **Transnational Asian America**  
 Read:         *Kim*, Imperial Citizens, selected chapters  
                  Selected documents
- 10/24            REQUIRED CORNELL CINEMA SCREENING
- 10/25            NO CLASS (see above)
- 10/27            Transnational Asian America
- Week 11**      **Becoming Asian American**  
 Read:         *Lee*, A New History, Chapter 11  
                  *Espiritu*, Asian American Panethnicity, Chapter 2  
                  *Iijima*, “Make It Snappy!” in Legacy to Liberation  
                  *Aoki*, Interviewed by Dolly Veale in Legacy to Liberation
- 11/1             The Asian American Movement
- 11/3             Racial Rearticulation
- Week 12**      **Violence, Activism, & Identity**  
 Read:         Zia, “Detroit Blues”  
                  *Kao*, “Three Step Boogie in 1970s Los Angeles,” Amerasia Journal  
                  *Kochiyama et al.*, “Stirrin’ the Waters ‘n Buildin’ Bridges,” Amerasia Journal  
                  Selected Documents
- 11/8             IN-CLASS SCREENING
- 11/3             Vincent Chin
- Week 13**      **Asian Americans and the Politics of Race, Pt. 1**  
 Read:         *Wang*, “Asian Americans and Debates About Affirmative Action”  
                  *Kim*, “Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans,” Politics & Society  
                  *Okibiro*, “Perils of the Mind and Body,” in Margins and Mainstreams
- 11/15            Model Minority Myth
- 11/17            Affirmative Action

**Week 14**

**Asian Americans and the Politics of Race, Pt. 2**

Read:

*Das Gupta*, Unruly Immigrants, Introduction & Chapter 1

*Bao*, “Politicizing Motherhood”

*Khandelwal*, “Opening Spaces”

*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

11/22

IN-CLASS SCREENING

11/24

THANKSGIVING

**Week 15**

**Loose Ends and Paths Forward**

Read:

*Lee*, A New History, Chapter 13

*Park*, “The Los Angeles Civil Unrest”

*Okibiro*, “Is Yellow Black or White?” in Margins and Mainstreams

11/29

The Los Angeles Uprising

12/1

Wrapping Up