

(Rev. 1/27/17)

AAS 1100

Introduction to Asian American Studies

Spring 2017

TR 1:25-2:40

230 Rockefeller Hall

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Course Description: This course examines Asian American historical and contemporary issues from the 1960s to the contemporary moment. We will examine major themes such as race and class relations, gender and family, immigration and globalization, politics, and community activism. We will become familiar with fundamental concepts and ideas by examining major events, including the Asian American Movement, the murder of Vincent Chin, and the Los Angeles Uprisings. In the second half of this course, we will ask the question of cross-racial intersections and coalition building in a post-civil rights era and examine new forms of American empire through a variety of topics including affirmative action, transnational adoption, reparations, War on Terror and Black Lives Matter.

For students taking the course for 4.0 credit hours, this course has four aims:

For students taking the course for 2.0 credit hours, the course has three aims:

Required texts

For Purchase at Buffalo Street Books (see attached sheet, or visit

<http://www.buffalostreetbooks.com/#!students/cuiy>)

Gary Y. Okihiro, Third World Studies: Theorizing Liberation (Duke University Press, 2016): ISBN: 978-0822362319

Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, K. Scott Wong, and Linda Trinh Vo, eds., Keywords for Asian American Studies (NYU Press, 2015): ISBN: 978-1479803286

Other required readings will be available electronically on the course's Blackboard site either as downloadable files (usually in pdf format) or as links to on-line journals or e-books via the Cornell University Library. 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.

Requirements for 4.0 Credit Hour Students

1. Attendance and Participation (20%): 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. In a class of this size, in-class participation is often difficult. The Teaching Assistant and I will evaluate both attendance and participation through various means, including pop quizzes, “exit tickets,” and sign-in sheets.
2. In-Class Quizzes (2 x 10% = 20%)
3. Contemporary Asian America in the News (2 short papers x 15% = 30%): Detailed assignment to be distributed in class February 2nd.
4. Final Exam (30%): Take home essays

Requirements for 2.0 Credit Hour Students

1. Attendance and Participation (20%): 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. In a class of this size, in-class participation is often difficult. The Teaching Assistant and I will evaluate both attendance and participation through various means, including pop quizzes, “exit tickets,” and sign-in sheets.
2. Active Participation in one of a number activities organized through the Asian and Asian American Center (A3C), the Asian American Studies Resource Center, the Asian American Studies Program, or Asian American focused student organizations (30%): You must sign up for one of the options no later than Tuesday, February 7th. The full range of approved options will be available to you Tuesday, January 31st. Priority is given to current A3C interns; all others must sign up on a first-come-first-served basis during the designated time in-class on February 7th.
3. Journal (20%): You must keep a journal, chronicling your thoughts about your experience. You must make entries for each meeting or event you attend. The journal should link your activities to what we discuss in class.
4. Reflection Essay (30%): A reflection essay on your experience, relating your work to course materials. Assignment to be distributed in class on February 7th.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction (1/26)

Week 2: Foundations (1/31 & 2/2)

Read: Angelo N. Ancheta, "Introduction: Neither Black nor White," in Race, Rights, and the Asian American Experience, 2nd ed. (2006), pp. 1-18;
Michael Omi & Howard Winant, "Racial Formation," in Racial Formation in the United States, 2nd rev. ed. (1994), pp. 48-76;
"Assimilation," "Citizenship," "Coolie," "Culture," "Empire," "Exclusion," "Foreign," "Immigration," "Labor," "Minority," "Nationalism," "Orientalism," "Race," and "Yellow," in Keywords.

Week 3: What is Politics? Who is Political? (2/7 & 2/9)

Read: "Commodification," "Law," "Movement," "Politics," "Resistance," and "Riot" in Keywords;
Robin D. G. Kelley, "'We Are Not What We Seem': Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the South," Journal of American History, 80:1 (June 1993);
Mimi Thi Nguyen and Thuy Linh Tu, "Introduction," *Alien Encounters: Popular Culture in Asian America* (2007)

Thurs., 2/9: In-class Quiz

Week 4: Third World Studies to Ethnic Studies (2/14 & 2/16)

Read: Okiihiro, Third World Studies

Week 5: Ethnic Studies in a "Diverse" World (2/21 & 2/23)

Read: "Community," "Cosmopolitanism," "Diaspora," "Enclave," "Ethnicity," "Family," "Fusion," "Globalization," "Identity," "Minority," "Multiculturalism," "Multiracial," "Postcolonialism," and "Transnationalism," in Keywords;
Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s," in Asian American Studies: A Reader (2000);
Vijay Prashad, "Ethnic Studies Inside and Out," Journal of Asian American Studies, 9:2 (2006).

Tues., 2/21: (February Break)

Week 6: Electoral Politics (2/28 & 3/1)

Read: Wong, et al., "Making Visible: Political Participation," in Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities (2011);
Karthick Ramakrishnan, "Trump Got More Votes From People of Color than Romney Did," Washington Post, November 11, 2016.

Week 7: Campus Politics: Affirmative Action & the Model Minority (3/7 & 3/9)

Read: Ellen D. Wu, Introduction, The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority (2013);

Vijay Prashad, Chapters 1 & 2, Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today (2012);
Alia Wong, "Asian Americans and the Future of Affirmative Action," The Atlantic, June 28, 2016.

Week 8: Grassroots Politics & Social Movements (3/14 & 3/16)

Read: Clement Lai, "Saving Japantown, Serving the People: The Scalar Politics of the Asian American Movement," Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 31 (2013);
Monisha Das Gupta, Introduction, Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States (2006);
Monisha Das Gupta, Chapter 1, Unruly Immigrants (2006);

Week 9: Asian Americans in the Era of Black Lives Matter (3/21 & 3/23)

Read: Aaron Mak, "You're Asian, Right? Why Are You Even Here?" Politico, August 23, 2016;
"An Open Letter to Our Asian American Families About Black Lives Matter," <https://lettersforblacklives.com/dear-mom-dad-uncle-auntie-black-lives-matter-to-us-too-7ca577d59f4c#.af2p0qfpa>;
Gary Y. Okihiro, "Is Yellow Black or White?" Margins and Mainstreams (1994).

Thurs., 3/23: In-class Quiz

Week 10: Class Politics (3/28 & 3/30)

Read: "Class," in Keywords;
Peter Kwong, "Asian American Studies Needs a Class Analysis," in Privileging Positions: The Sites of Asian American Studies, eds. Okihiro, et al. (1995)
Readings to be determined

Tues., 3/28: No class, but students must attend a lecture by Professor Chrissy Lau at 4:30; location to be determined

SPRING BREAK

Week 11: Cultural Politics (4/4 & 4/6)

Read: "Art," "Commodification," "Culture," "Film," "Food," "Media," "Performance" in Keywords;
Mimi Thi Nguyen and Thuy Linh Tu, Introduction, Alien Encounters: Popular Culture in Asian America (2007);
Sunaina Maira, "Henna and Hip Hop," Journal of Asian American Studies, 3.3 (2000).

Week 12: Gender & Sexuality (4/11 & 4/13)

Read: "Gender," "Queer," "Sexuality" in Keywords
Yen Le Espiritu, "We Don't Sleep Around Like White Girls Do': Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives," Signs 26:2;
Rhacel Salazar-Perrenas, "Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work" (2001);

Thurs., 4/13: No class

Week 13: Politics of Immigration (4/18 & 4/20)

Read: “Citizenship,” “Exclusion,” “Immigration,” in Keywords;

Selected documents on Asian exclusion

Mae Ngai, “The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law,” Journal of American History;

Chris Fuchs, “How Trump’s First 100 Days in the White House Could Affect Asian Americans,” <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/how-trump-s-first-100-days-white-house-could-affect-n686891>.

Week 14: Politics of War, Part 1 (4/25 & 4/27)

Read: “Genocide,” “Militarism,” “Refugee,” “Terrorism,” and “War” in Keywords

Lila Abu-Lughod, “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?” American Anthropologist 104:3 (September 2002);

Jenn Fang, “Chinese Exclusion, and the Dangerous Islamophobia of Donald Trump,” <http://reappropriate.co/2015/12/chinese-exclusion-and-the-dangerous-islamophobia-of-donald-trump/>.

Week 15: Politics of War, Part 2 (5/2 & 5/4)

Read: Selected documents, re: Japanese Internment During World War II;

Jenn Fang, “900+ Asian American Studies Scholars Issue Collective Statement Decrying Trump’s Proposed Registry,” <http://reappropriate.co/2016/12/900-asian-american-studies-scholars-issue-collective-statement-decrying-trumps-proposed-muslim-registry/>;

“Collective Statement by Asian American Studies Scholars regarding Japanese American ‘Internment’ and a Proposed Registry of Immigrants from Muslim-majority Countries,” <https://medium.com/@vgshaw/collective-statement-by-asian-american-studies-scholars-regarding-japanese-american-internment-a7994c453a77#.8d89qukjy>.

Week 16: Wrapping Up (5/9)