

Introduction to Asian American History
History 2640/AAS 2130/AMST 2130
Fall 2011
TR 2:55-4:10
GSH G64

Instructor: Derek Chang
Email: dsc37@cornell.edu
Office Hrs: Wed. 11-12 in 454 McGraw Hall
Thurs. 1-2 in 425 Rockefeller Hall

TA: Sookyeong Hong
Email: sh662@cornell.edu
Office Hrs: Thurs. 1:30-2:45
Office: McGraw B10

Course Description

This is an introductory history of Asians in the United States from the mid-19th century to the present. 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 you to the major themes in Asian American history; (2) to provide a critical perspective on the conventional narrative of American history – a narrative that largely excludes Asian Americans; (3) to analyze past Asian American experiences within the context of complicity with and challenges to hierarchies of race, gender, and class; and (4) to examine the continuities and discontinuities between past experiences of Asian Americans and those of Asian Americans today.

Requirements

1. Midterm. A take-home midterm exam. (20%)
2. Final Project. Due the final day of classes. (20%)
3. Final Exam. A take-home exam. (25%)
4. Questions for Class Discussion. Each student will be asked to submit at least three (3) discussion questions to a Blackboard discussion board by Monday at 4:00 p.m. the day before the first class of the week. The questions should be broad and designed to encourage conversation and/or debate. Failure to submit more than 3 sets of questions will result in the forfeiture of the entire 15% credit for this requirement. (15%)
5. Attendance and participation. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 4 classes, you will forfeit the 20% credit for class participation. Discussion of readings is an integral part of this class. Do the readings carefully and come to class prepared to discuss them. Readings are due on Tuesday of every week. (20%)

Students may be asked to attend lectures by guest speakers. A class will be cancelled for each corresponding lecture. Attendance at the lectures is required unless there is an unavoidable scheduling conflict.

If you have any questions during the semester about your performance in any area of the course, please see me to discuss your concerns. If you are unable to make my regular office hours, please call or email me to arrange another appointment.

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 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 in the Asian American Studies Resource Center on the 4th floor of Rockefeller Hall. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information on the resource center, please call (607) 255-2546.

The Asian American Studies Resource Center has relatively extensive book and video libraries, so it is an ideal place to begin looking deeper into topics covered in this survey course.

Course Blackboard Page

The syllabus, writing assignments, and other announcements will be available through Blackboard at <http://blackboard.cornell.edu/>.

Class Schedule

First Day 8/25	Introductions Whose History Matters?
Week 1 Read:	Framing Asian American History <i>Espiritu</i> , <u>Asian American Women and Men</u> , Chapter 2 <i>Daniels</i> , "No Lamps Were Lit For Them," <u>Journal of American Ethnic History</u> <i>Okimoto</i> , <u>Columbia Guide to Asian American History</u> , Chapter 1 <i>Hune</i> , "Introduction: Through 'Our' Eyes," <u>Asian/Pacific Islander American Women</u>
8/30 9/1	Asian American History's History Asian American History as Immigration History
Week 2 Read:	Deep Roots <i>Prashad</i> , <u>The Karma of Brown Folk</u> , Preface, Chapters 1-3 <i>Okimoto</i> , "When & Where I Enter," <u>Margins and Mainstreams</u> Selected Documents
9/6 9/8	"Knowing" Asians Race, Culture, Nation
Week 3 Read:	Migration & Settlement <i>Bonacich</i> , "Some Basic Facts," <u>Labor Immigration Under Capitalism</u> <i>Hsu</i> , <u>Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home</u> , Chapters 1-2 <i>Glenn</i> , <u>Issei, Nisei, War Bride</u> , Chapter 2 <i>Azuma</i> , <u>Between Two Empires</u> , Chapter 2 <i>Azuma</i> , "Japanese Immigrant Farmers," <u>California History</u>
9/13 9/15	Chinese & Japanese Migration to the Americas Building Community
Week 4 Read:	Empires <i>Buenaventura</i> , "The Colors of Manifest Destiny" <i>Kim</i> , "Korean Independence Movement" <i>Chan</i> , "Introduction," <u>Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America</u> by Mary Paik Lee Selected Documents
9/20 9/22	Japanese Imperialism American Imperialism
Week 5 Read:	Exclusions <i>Okimoto</i> , <u>Columbia Guides to Asian American History</u> , Chapter 2 <i>Gotanda</i> , "Exclusion and Inclusion"

Ngai, "The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law," Journal of American History
Azuma, Between Two Empires, Chapter 3
Gyory, "The Significance of Chinese Exclusion"
Selected Documents

9/27 Orientalism and Alienage
9/29 Immigration Exclusion

Week 6 World War II

Read: *Lee, "The Japanese Internment," Theory & Event*
Smith, "New Deal Public Works at War," Pacific Historical Review
Nakanishi, "Surviving Democracy's 'Mistake,'" Amerasia Journal
Selected Documents

10/4 War and Citizenship: "Enemy Aliens"
10/6 Midterm Take-Home Exam Due

Week 7 World War II

Read: *Gonzalves, "Filipino Veterans of World War II"*
Wong, Americans First, Chapter 3
Yung, Unbound Feet, Chapter 5

10/11 FALL BREAK
10/13 War and Citizenship: Allies?

Week 8 Postwar America

Read: *Ngai, Impossible Subjects, Chapter 7*
Cheng, "Out of Chinatown and Into the Suburbs," American Quarterly
Ngai, "Legacies of Exclusion," Journal of American Ethnic History

10/18 Cold War
10/20 Immigration Act of 1965

Week 9 Becoming Asian America

Read: *Espiritu, Asian American Panethnicity, Chapter 2*
Iijima, "Make it Snappy!" in Legacy to Liberation
Aoki, Interviewed by Dolly Veale in Legacy to Liberation
Kao, "Three Step Boogie in 1970s Los Angeles," Amerasia Journal
Kochiyama et al., "Stirrin' Waters 'n Buildin' Bridges," Amerasia Journal
Selected Documents

10/25 The Asian American Movement
10/27 Racial Rearticulation

Week 10 Activism

Read: Selected Documents

11/1 Film: "Vincent Who?"
11/3 Discussion

Week 11 Refugees

Read: *Freeman and Welaratna*, "Vietnamese and Cambodian Views of 'Successful' Adjustment in America"
Vo, "Managing Survival"
Chan, "Scarred, Yet Undefeated"
Selected Documents

11/8 War and Migration
11/10 Film: A Village Called Versailles

Week 12 Politics and the State

Read: *Wang*, "Asian Americans and Debates About Affirmative Action"
Espiritu, Asian American Panethnicity, Chapters 3-5
Bao, "Politicizing Motherhood"
Khandelwal, "Opening Spaces"
Das Gupta, Unruly Immigrants, Introduction and Chapter 1

11/15 Engaging the State
11/17 Defining the Political

Week 13 Identity and Politics

Read: *Kim*, "Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans," Politics & Society
Okihiro, "Perils of the Mind and Body," Margins and Mainstreams
Okihiro, "Is Yellow Black or White?" Margins and Mainstreams
Prashad, The Karma of Brown Folk, Chapters 5 and 9

11/22 Model Minorities?
11/24 THANKSGIVING

Week 14 Asian American History for the 21st Century

Read: *Prashad*, The Karma of Brown Folk, Chapter 10
Nakashima, "Approaches to Multiraciality"

11/29 Whose History?
12/1 Wrapping Up