

SHUM 4954
Yellowface
Spring 2011
T 2:30 – 4:25 PM
201 A. D. White House

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This seminar is a study of cross-cultural flows between Asia and the West via literature, translation, and cinema. It focuses on yellowface as racial ventriloquism performed by writers, translators, actors, directors, and other cultural go-betweens. We will examine literary representations, poetic translations, cinematic portrayals, wisdom products, and other areas of culture, high and low, elite and popular.

Requirements:

- An open mind
- Weekly responses (200-400 words, emailed to me by Monday night; 20%)
- Attendance and participation (20%)
- Presentation (10%)
- One research paper (15-20 pages, due May 6; 50%)

Texts:

- Earl Derr Biggers, *The Chinese Parrot*
- Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha*
- Yunte Huang, *Charlie Chan*
- Henry David Hwang, *Yellow Face*
- Araki Yasusada, *Doubled Flowering*
- Handouts:
 - 1) Emmanuel Levinas, on face
 - 2) Michael Rogin, *Blackface, White Noise*
 - 3) Imagism
 - 4) Michael Taussig, *Mimesis and Alterity*
 - 5) Kenneth Rexroth, *The Love Poems of Marichiko*
 - 6) Yunte Huang, *Transpacific Imaginations*

Films and film clips:

- *The Jazz Singer* (1927)
- *The Black Camel* (1931)
- *Shanghai Express* (1932)
- *The Good Earth* (1935)
- *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (1959)
- *Murder by Death* (1976)
- *Chan Is Missing* (1982),
- *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2005)

- January 25 Introduction: What's a face?
- January 27 Josef von Sternberg, *Shanghai Express* (Cornell Cinema, 7:15 PM)
- February 1 Michael Rogin, *Blackface, White Noise*
Film, *The Jazz Singer*
- February 8 Literary Orientalism: Imagism
Michael Taussig, *Mimesis and Alterity*
Film, *The Good Earth*
- February 15 Earl Derr Biggers, *The Chinese Parrot*
- February 22 Yunte Huang, *Charlie Chan*
- March 1 Huang, *Charlie Chan*
Film, *The Black Camel*
- March 8 Henry David Hwang, *Yellow Face*
Film, *Murder by Death*
- March 15 Wayne Wang, *Chan Is Missing*
- March 29 Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha*
Film, *Memoirs of a Geisha*
- April 5 Kenneth Rexroth, *The Love Poems of Marichiko*
Araki Yasusada, *Doubled Flowering*
- April 12 Film, *Hiroshima, Mon Amour*
Yunte Huang, *Transpacific Imaginations*
- April 19
to May 3 Project presentations
- May 6 Paper due