

**English 2620** (cross-listed with Asian American Studies and American Studies)

Spring 2012

TR 11:40-12:55

124 Goldwin Smith

Instructor: Shelley Wong

Office: 282 Goldwin Smith Hall – 255-9310 – ssw6@cornell.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 2:00-4:00

### Introduction to Asian American Literature

This course will introduce both a variety of writings by Asian North American authors and some critical issues concerning the production and the reception of Asian American literary texts. We'll be focusing primarily on prose fiction this semester. We will be asking questions about the historical formation of Asian American identities and about the aesthetic forms of representation taken up by Asian American writers and artists.

This course welcomes readers who are non-English majors, and may be taken for 3 or 4 credits; those choosing 4 credits will complete an additional writing project. English majors should take the course for 4 credits to help them more readily fulfill their credit-hour requirements for the major.

#### **Required Readings:**

Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*

Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

Carlos Bulosan, *America Is In the Heart*

Chang-Rae Lee, *Native Speaker*

Li-Young Lee, *Rose*

Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*

Shani Mootoo, *Cereus Blooms at Night*

Andrew Pham, *Catfish and Mandala*

Additional short readings will be posted on Blackboard

#### **Course Requirements:**

- Regular attendance and **completion** of assigned readings **by the date we begin** our discussion of a given text as noted in the syllabus. I check attendance at every class meeting and more than two **unexcused** absences will affect your grade
- Regular participation in class discussions
- One group presentation
- Two 2-page informal writing assignments that will take the form of a focused response to a particular aspect of a given reading. These are not meant to be synopses or broad generalizations about a given text. These responses may function as points of departure for your essays. You may turn in the first response any time before Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the second response any time before Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Two formal writing assignments: one 6-page mid-term essay; one 10-page final essay. (The mid-term essay requirement will be waived for those taking the course for 3 credits) I will offer some suggestions for essay topics but I encourage you to develop your own topics.

**Plagiarism:**

All the work you submit in this course must have been written for this course and not another and must originate with you in form and content, with contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Make yourself familiar with Cornell's Academic Integrity Code, distributed to students in the Policy Notebook and available on-line at <http://www.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>. The code, together with a guide to Acknowledging the Work of Others, can be downloaded from <http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/docs/main.html>. In this course, the normal penalty for a violation of the code is an "F" for the term.

**Syllabus (subject to change)****Week 1**

T - 1/24 -- Introduction

R – 1/26 -- Video screening in class: Stuart Hall lecture on "Representation and the Media"

**Week 2**

T – 1/31 – Discussion of Stuart Hall lecture and readings (Blackboard) by Robert Lee "Introduction—Yellowface" and Bertolt Brecht, "Conversation about being Forced Into Empathy" (just the single page that includes the conversation, not the subsequent essays by Brecht)

R – 2/2 – Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*

**Week 3**

T – 2/7 – Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*

R – 2/9 – Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*

**Week 4**

T – 2/14 – Carlos Bulosan, *America Is In the Heart*

R – 2/16 – Carlos Bulosan, *America Is In the Heart*

**Week 5**

T – 2/21 – Carlos Bulosan, *America Is In the Heart*

R – 2/23 – Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

**Week 6**

T – 2/28 – Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

R – 3/1 – Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

**Week 7**

M – 3/5 – Film screening tonight at 7:00 p.m.

T – 3/6 – **Mid-term essay (5-7 pages) due in class today. Please also send me a copy of your essay by way of an email attachment.**

- Discussion of film

R – 3/8 – Chang-rae Lee, ***Native Speaker***

### Week 8

T – 3/13 – Chang-rae Lee, ***Native Speaker***

R – 3/15 – Chang-rae Lee, ***Native Speaker***

### Week 9

T – 3/20 – ***Spring break***

R – 3/22 – ***Spring break***

### Week 10

T – 3/27 – Li-Young Lee, ***Rose***

R – 3/29 – Li-Young Lee, ***Rose***

### Week 11

T – 4/3 – Shani Mootoo, ***Cereus Blooms at Night***

R – 4/5 – Shani Mootoo, ***Cereus Blooms at Night***

### Week 12

T – 4/10 – Shani Mootoo, ***Cereus Blooms at Night***

R – 4/12 – Jessica Hagedorn, ***Dogeaters***

### Week 13

T – 4/17 – Jessica Hagedorn, ***Dogeaters***

R – 4/19 – Jessica Hagedorn, ***Dogeaters***

### Week 14

T – 4/24 – Andrew Pham, ***Catfish and Mandala***

R – 4/26 – Andrew Pham, ***Catfish and Mandala***

### Week 15

T – 5/1 – Andrew Pham, ***Catfish and Mandala***

R – 5/3 – Gathering

R – 5/11 – ***Term paper due today. Please turn in your hard copy of the essay by 4:00 p.m. to my English Department mailbox in 250 Goldwin Smith Hall. You should also send me a copy of the essay by way of email attachment.***