

Instructor: Yen Le Espiritu  
 Office: Social Science Building 228  
 (858) 534-5206  
[yespiritu@ucsd.edu](mailto:yespiritu@ucsd.edu)  
 Office hours: Tuesdays 10-12; Wednesdays 2-3

**Course Description**

This course takes a critical transnational approach to the study of Asian American lives. We will examine how Asian American experiences have been and are directly linked to U.S.-Asia relations and the global context. Through a variety of texts, both academic and creative, we will delve into the social consequences that are a part of these U.S.-Asia relations and to grasp how even the seemingly most personal relationships are rooted in and shaped by historical and social circumstances. The course pays special attention to the inequalities and differences that arise from older histories of colonialism and racism as well as from new forms of globalization.

**Section Information\*:**

Sect.	Day	Time	Room	Instructor	E-mail	Office	Office Hrs.
A01	M	2	Center 217A	Theo Verinakis	tverinak@ucsd.edu	SSB 249	M 12-2 T 10:30-11:30
A02	M	3	WLH 2114	Theo Verinakis	tverinak@ucsd.edu	SSB 249	M 12-2 T 10:30-11:30
A03	Th	8	WLH2006	Benita Brahmbhatt	bbrahmbhatt@ucsd.edu	SSB 248	Th. 9-11 W 6-7
A04	W	5	WLH2114	Benita Brahmbhatt	bbrahmbhatt@ucsd.edu	SSB 248	Th. 9-11 W 6-7

\* You must attend the section that you are enrolled in. You will not receive credit for attending a section that you are not enrolled in. Attendance will be taken in section.

**Required Texts**

- Catherine Ceniza Choy. *Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History*. Duke University Press.
- Ji-Yeon Yuh. *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America*. New York University Press.
- Aimee Phan. *We Should Never Meet*. St. Martin's Press.
- Ethnic Studies 20 Reader sold by University Readers.

All books are available at Groundworks Bookstore, 858.452.9625. Readers are for sale through University Readers, [info@universityreaders.com](mailto:info@universityreaders.com), 1.800.200.3908. University

Readers representatives will bring readers to lecture the first few sessions. The books and the reader will be on reserve in the library.

### **Requirements**

- 1) **Readings:** You should complete the readings for the week by the beginning of each week. Your preparation will help you to get the most out of lectures and section discussions.
- 2) **Attendance:** Attend both lecture and section.
- 3) **Assignments:**
  - Assignment # 1—Due date: Oct 13 (3<sup>rd</sup> week)
  - Assignment # 2—Due date: Nov 17 (8<sup>th</sup> week)
- 4) **Exams:**
  - Midterm: Oct. 25.
  - Final: Dec. 7, 11:30-2:30.

### **Grading\*:**

Section attendance and participation**	15 %
Assignment #1:	15 %
Assignment # 2:	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	30%

\* You must complete all course requirements to pass the course.

\*\*You must receive a passing grade in section to pass the course. Section grades are based on attendance and participation, and will be assigned by the teaching assistants.

### **Reading and Lecture Schedule**

#### **September 22 – Course Introduction: Asian/America**

#### **Week 1. Sept. 27 & 29 – Asian American Studies: Epistemological critique & Social Justice.**

Henry Yu, “The ‘Oriental Problem’ in America, 1920-1960: Linking the Identities of Chinese American and Japanese American Intellectuals.”

Karen Umemoto, “‘On Strike!’ San Francisco State College Strike, 1968-69: The Role of Asian American Students.”

Wanni Anderson and Robert G. Lee, “Asian American Displacements.”

#### **Week 2. Oct. 4 & 6 – Asian American Racial Formation: U.S. National and Global Frameworks**

Mae Ngai, “The Johnson-Reed Act and the Reconstruction of Race in Immigration Law.”

Caroline Chung Simpson, “‘Out of an Obscure Place’: Japanese War Brides and Cultural Pluralism in the 1950s.”

Gary Okihiro, “When and Where I Enter.”

Oscar Compomanes, “New Formations of Asian American Studies and the Question of U.S. Imperialism.”

**Week 3. Oct. 11& 13 – Global Capitalism and Colonialism**

Edna Bonacich, “United States Capitalist Development: A Background to Asian Immigration.”

Catherine Choy, *Empire of Care*, pp. 1-118.

Sucheta Mazumdar, “Colonial Impact and Punjabi Emigration to the United States.”

Mark Bradley, “Representing Vietnam: The Interwar American Construction of French Indochina.”

**Note: Assignment # 1 due Oct. 13**

**Week 4. Oct. 18 & 20 – U.S. Wars in Asia**

Luzviminda Francisco, “The First Vietnam: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902.”

John Dower, “War Hates and War Crimes.”

Ji-Yeon Yuh’s *Beyond The Shadow of Camptown*, pp. 1-83.

Marilyn Young, “Bloodbaths (1968-1971)”

**Week 5. Oct 25 & 27 –**

Oct. 25--- Midterm

Oct 27– Film

**Week 6. Nov. 1 & 3 -- Post-1965 Asian Immigration**

Roger Waldinger and Jennifer Lee, “New Immigrants in Urban America.”

Jessica Gurcak et al, “Immigration of Scientists and Engineers to the United States: Issues and Evidence.”

Paula Chakravartty, “The Emigration of Highly-Skilled Indian Workers to the United States: Flexible Citizenship and India’s Information Economy.”

Ruben Rumbaut, “Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian Americans.”

**Week 7. Nov. 8 & 10 — Contact Zones: Encountering America**

Catherine Choy, *Empire of Care*, Ch. 5, 121-165.

Ji-Yeon Yuh’s *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown*, chs. 3-4, pp. 84-153

Aime Phan, *We Should Never Meet*, pp. 1-112.

Aihwa Ong, “Refugee Medicine: Attracting and Deflecting the Gaze.”

**Week 8. Nov. 15 & 17 Making a Life: Family and Community**

Ji-Yeon Yuh’s *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown*, chs. 5-6, pp. 154-221

Aime Phan, *We Should Never Meet*, pp. 113-243.

Lisa Sun-Hee Park. “Asian Immigrant Entrepreneurial Children.”

Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, “The Overlooked Second Generation: The Experience of Prolonged Separation in Two-Parent Migrant Families.”

**Note: November 17: Guest speaker – Aimee Phan**

**Assignment # 2 due Nov. 17**

**Week 9. Nov. 22 – Critical Issues Facing Contemporary Asian America**

Muneer Ahmad, “Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day after September 11.”

Bill Ong Hing, “Deporting Cambodian Refugees: Justice Denied?”

<http://www.api-center.org/documents/Deportation.pdf>

“Resisting Homeland Security: Organizing Against Unjust Removals of U.S. Filipinos.” A report of the Critical Filipina and Filipino Studies Collective.

<http://www2.sjsu.edu/depts/sociology/living/ResistHomeSec-web.pdf>

Edward Park and John Park, “Toward Limits to Welfare and Family Reunification.”

Edward Park and John Park, “Probationary Americans.”

**Week 10. Nov. 29 & Dec 1 – Conclusion: New Lives/New Ways**

Catherine Choy, *Empire of Care*, Ch. 6 and Epilogue, 166-192.

Glenn Omatsu, “The ‘Four Prisons’ and the Movements of Liberation’

Film: “Labor Women” by Renee Tajima Pena. (Portrait of three Asian immigrant daughters who are part of a new generation transforming the American labor movement)

**Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11:30-2:30**

**Ethnic Studies Major or Minor at UCSD**

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Ethnic Studies at (858) 534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu)