

## Ethnic Studies 20: Introduction to Asian American Studies FALL 2008

Lecture Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:50am in Center hall 105.

Instructor: Thuy Vo Dang, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: Tues. 12:30-1:30pm  
Thurs. 11:30am-1:30pm

### Course Description

This course will critically examine Asian Americans through U.S.-national and transnational frameworks. We will explore a range of scholarly, literary, and visual texts in order to understand how the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies has shifted from an investment in domestic social justice concerns to consider how war, colonialism, and global capitalism have shaped Asian American lives historically and in the contemporary moment. This course pays particular attention to the ways in which Asian Americans negotiate these structural forces in their everyday lives. We will also consider queerness, silence, and expressive cultural forms in order to explore questions of agency and identity.

### Section Information\*

Section	Day	Time	Location	TA	Email	Office	Office Hours
A01	Th	2 pm	WLH 2208	Eugene Gambol			
A02	Th	3:30 pm	WLH 2208	Eugene Gambol			
A03	Wed	1 pm	HSS 2150	Long Bui			
A04	Wed	2 pm	HSS 2150	Long Bui			

\*You must attend the section you are enrolled in. You WILL NOT receive credit for attending a section you are not enrolled in.

### Required Texts

1. Jean Yu-wen Shen Wu and Min Song, eds. *Asian American Studies: A Reader*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2004.
2. Ethnic Studies Reader Available on E-Reserve

\* The textbook is available for purchase at Groundworks Bookstore (855) 452-9625. The book is also on reserve at the Social Science and Humanities Library.

### Requirements

- 1) **Attendance:** It is required that you attend all lectures and discussion sections. Pop quizzes may be given occasionally during either lecture or section. Films and other media shown during lectures will not be made available on reserve.
- 2) **Readings:** You should complete weekly readings **before** Tuesday lectures. This will help you get the most out of lectures and be prepared to participate in discussion.
- 3) **Assignments:**
  - a. Assignment # 1 will be due in lecture Oct. 14
  - b. Assignment # 2 will be due in lecture Nov. 13

Assignment Prompts will be handed out in Lecture a week before the due date.

**4) Exams**

- a. Midterm (in-class): Thurs., Oct. 23
- b. Final (take-home): Due on Thurs., Dec. 11

**Grading\***

Section Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes**	15%
Assignment #1	15%
Assignment #2	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	30%

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

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

**Reading & Lecture Schedule\***

\*This schedule is subject to change

\*\* The readings from E-Reserves are designated **(ER)** and those from the Textbook are designated **(TB)**

**Sept. 25: Introduction****Week 1 (Sept. 30 & Oct. 2): Roots of Asian American Studies**

Legal Chronology of Asian American History **(TB)**

Okihiro, Gary. "When and Where I Enter" **(TB)**

Munson, C.B. "Japanese on the West Coast" **(TB)**

Omatsu, Glenn. "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s" **(TB)**

**Week 2 (Oct. 7 & 9): Asian American Racial Formation**

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. "On the Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race" **(TB)**

Ngai, Mae. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2003, pp. 1-55. **(ER)**

Wong, K. Scott. "Diasporas, Displacements, and the Construction of Transnational Identities," in *Displacements and Diasporas: Asians in the Americas*. Eds. Wanni W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2005. pp. 41-53. **(ER)**

**Week 3 (Oct. 14 & 16): Asian Americans through a Critical Transnational Perspective**

\*Assignment #1 due in Lecture Oct. 14

Miyoshi, Masao. "A Borderless World?: From Colonialism to Transnationalism and the Decline of the Nation-State" **(TB)**

Bonacich, Edna. "U.S. Capitalist Development: A Background to Asian Immigration," in *Labor Immigration under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States Before World War II*. Ed. L. Cheng and E. Bonacich. Berkeley: UC Press, 1984. pp. 79-129. **(ER)**

Campomanes, Oscar V. "New Formations of Asian American Studies and the Questions of U.S. Imperialism" in *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (1997): 523-50 **(ER)**

Espiritu, Yen Le. "Home Making," in *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2003. pp. 1-22. **(ER)**

#### **Week 4 (Oct. 21 & 23): Midterm**

Film screening in lecture on Oct. 21

**MIDTERM: Thursday, OCT. 23**

#### **Week 5 (Oct. 28 & 30): Post-1965 Communities**

Kibria, Nazli. "Not Asian, Black, or White?: Reflections on South Asian American Racial Identity" **(TB)**

Kim, Elaine H. "Home is Where the Han Is: A Korean-American Perspective on the Los Angeles Upheavals" **(TB)**

Vo, Linda. "The Vietnamese American Experience: From Dispersion to the Development of Post-Refugee Communities" **(TB)**

Ong, Aihwa. "The Refugee as Ethical Figure" in *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2003. pp. 69-90. **(ER)**

#### **Week 6 (Nov. 4 & 6): Cultural Representations**

Lowe, Lisa. "Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Marking Asian American Difference" **(TB)**

Yamamoto, Hisaye. "The Legend of Miss Sasagawa" **(TB)**

Entire "REPRESENTATIONS AND IDENTITIES" Section in **(TB)**

Truong, Monique. "Kelly," *Amerasia Journal* 17:2 (1991) **(ER)**

#### **Week 7 (Veterans Day & Nov. 13)**

No Class on Nov. 11

**\*Assignment #2 due in Lecture Nov. 13**

#### **Week 8 (Nov. 18 & 20): Queering Asian America**

Fung, Richard. "Looking for my Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn" **(TB)**

Takagi, Dana Y. "Maiden Voyage: Excursion into Sexuality and Identity Politics in Asian America" **(TB)**

Eng, David. Epilogue: Out Here and Over There: Queerness and Diaspora in Asian American Studies" in *Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America*. Durham: Duke UP, 2001. pp. 204-28. **(ER)**

### **Week 9 (Nov. 25 & Thanksgiving)**

Film screening in lecture Nov. 25

No class on Nov. 27

### **Week 10 (Dec. 2 & 4): New Directions/Different Strategies**

Koshy, Susan. "The Fiction of Asian American Literature" **(TB)**

Duncan, Patti. "Introduction: The Uses of Silence and the Will to Unsay" in *Tell This Silence: Asian American Women Writers and the Politics of Speech*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2004. pp. 1-30. **(ER)**

Espiritu, Yen Le. "Toward a Critical Refugee Study: The Vietnamese Refugee Subject in US Scholarship." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 1:1&2(2006): 410-33. **(ER)**

Phi, Thien-Bao. "For Us," *Amerasia Journal* 29:1(2003): 76-9. **(ER)**

### **FINAL EXAM (take-home)**

Due Dec. 11, 2008

#### **Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies 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, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).