



ETHN122-Asian American Culture and Identity

UCSD Fall 2016
Mondays, 5:00-7:50pm | Peter 102

Instructor: Mark Redondo Villegas

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Office: SSB 243 | **Office Hours:** Wednesdays 3:00-4:30pm; by appointment

Course Description

Rooted in more traditional scholarship exploring “Asian American culture and identity,” this course highlights recent publications that focus on Asian American sports culture, South Asian American beauty and fashion, and Filipino American mobile DJ scenes. These less-discussed aspects of Asian America complicate the terms “culture” and “identity” by dispelling ideologies that homogenize and immobilize “culture” and “identity.” Also, our readings demonstrate that Asian Americans don’t live in a historical vacuum. As such, our class links with the experiences of comparable groups to reveal the development of “culture” and “identity” in their political contexts.

Learning Objectives

- Articulate crucial moments in Asian American history by examining contemporary Asian American culture and identity.
- Expand and complicate culture and identity to appreciate their fluidity and dynamism.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of Asian Americans with other groups’ experiences in U.S. history.
- Exercise creative skills in design, research, and rhetoric while working collaboratively.

Required Texts

All books are available at the UCSD Library

- Stanley I. Thangaraj, Constancio Arnaldo, and Christina B. Chin, *Asian American Sporting Cultures* (NYU Press, 2016)
- Vanita Reddy, *Fashioning Diaspora: Beauty, Femininity, and South Asian American Culture* (Temple, 2016)
- Oliver Wang, *Legions of Boom: Filipino American Mobile DJ Crews in the San Francisco Bay Area* (Duke, 2015)

Grading Criteria

40 pts.- Weekly Keywords (5pts each, 8 total)

Due Sundays at 5:00pm on TritonEd uploaded in folder under “Content” tab

- Each week, groups will submit a list of **16 keywords** to define/summarize from the assigned readings, films, or lecture for that particular week. Keep your explanations between 1-4 sentences long.
- To avoid arbitrariness, at the end of each list, compose a one-paragraph **justification** explaining why you chose those words. For example, you can explain how five words relate in one way, and four another way, etc.
- It is the responsibility of your group to decide your leader of the group every week. This leader will collect all the keywords from the group and upload the assignment to TritonEd by the due date/time.
- Include your group name, group members’ names, and the date at the top of a Microsoft Word doc.
- You will be graded based on the choice of keyword from multiple sources and the coherency of your list justification.
- Citations: After the definition/summary of a keyword, place the author’s name and the page numbers where you find the keyword. If there is no author, write a shortened version of the title. You can omit page numbers if they are not available or applicable. Example of a keyword:

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882- Preceded by the Anti-Coolie Law of 1862, the Page Act of 1875, and the Fifteen Passenger Act of 1879, this act brought to a halt Chinese immigration due to... (Lee 137-138)

15 pts.- Magazine Cover (course blog)

- **Due Sunday, 10/30 by 5:00pm on our course blog.**
- Your group will design a Magazine Cover depicting an Asian American athlete (real or fictional) in an alternate universe or in the near future. You will be graded based on knowledge of course material, creativity, and care and effort in the craft.
- On the blog, you will provide a **critical explanation** of your design, complete with at least **5 keywords** of choice to justify your approach. Citations required, example: (Villegas 2014, 99).

5 pts.- Magazine Cover team member contributions

- **Due Tue, 11/1 by 5:00pm**, individually, you will write a one-paragraph explanation (submitted on TritonEd) of your specific role in the Magazine Cover assignment. On a scale of 0-5, you will give an honest estimation of the grade you deserve for this portion of the project.

20 pts.- Final Project: Record Vinyl Sleeve or Magazine Profile (5 pts. Abstract / 5 pts. Peer Commentary)

- **Abstract (5 points) for your Final Project is due on Sunday, 11/6 at 5:00pm submitted on TritonEd.**
- **Final Project due on our course blog on Sunday, 11/27 at 5:00pm. You will present your project on 11/28.**
- Your group will decide to either create a **Record Vinyl Sleeve** or a multipage **Magazine Profile**. The projects will be graded based on knowledge of course material, creativity, and care and effort in the craft.
- Your group can decide on an alternative project. Consultation with instructor mandatory.
- **Record Vinyl Sleeve:**
 - Design original artwork for the front and back of the sleeve.
 - On the back, list songs that represent the record.
 - On our course blog, provide 600-1000 word "liner notes" justifying the content and artwork as they relate to the course. Judiciously and expertly use at least **3 keywords** in the liner notes. Citations required.
- **Magazine Profile:**
 - Design a Magazine Cover and multipage article (800-1000 words) profiling a real or fictional person.
 - In the article, judiciously and expertly use at least **3 keywords** as you somehow relate the story and content to course material. Citations required.
- **By Thursday, 11/29 by 5:00pm**, each group must assign a representative to comment on each of the other projects. Each member must comment at least once. At the end of your comment, place your group name in parenthesis. You can address what you liked/didn't like, what can be improved, and/or further clarification of the design, narration, or concept.

10 pts.- Overall Group Commitment

- A Group Commitment survey will be distributed between Week 9 and Week 10. This survey requires you to grade the contributions and efforts of your group members as well as yourself.
- **5 points will be allocated in this survey specifically for your contributions to the Final Project.**
- Expectations for this grade include reciprocated respect among members, creative and intellectual contributions to group projects, critical dialogue among members, and willingness to learn from each other.

10 pts.- Class Participation

- Students will be graded based on their attendance of class. The missing of more than three meetings justifies the failure of the entire course.
- There are a total of ten meetings. Late arrivals count as ½ point.
- You must present proper and legitimate documentation during Week 1 if you plan to miss any meetings.
- Students must bring assigned hardcopy books to all meetings.
- Grading will greatly consider your active participation in contributing to class discussions. With that said, perfect attendance does not guarantee 10 points.
- I may issue assignments, quizzes, and exercises that are graded towards class participation/attendance.

Electronic Devices Policy

Unless otherwise authorized, students are prohibited from using any electronic devices during class. If you need to use a device in an emergency, kindly step out of the class to address this.

Email Policy

Students are expected to check their UCSD email account daily. They must respond to instructor or teaching assistants' electronic requests within 48 hours.

Academic Dishonesty

All work is to be produced by the student. Any assignment, paper, presentation, etc. that is produced by anyone else other than the student being graded will result in an automatic F in the class and immediate disciplinary action. For more on academic dishonesty: <https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>

Special Accommodations and Needs

Students who require special accommodations and/or needs must notify me in person or via email so that I can best assist you. It is recommended you register with UCSD's Office for Students with Disabilities so that you can receive the appropriate assistance: <https://disabilities.ucsd.edu/students/registering.html>

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a college general education requirement. Often students have taken many ETHN courses out of interest, yet do not 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, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, public policy, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact: Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor 858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: 9/26

- Examining “culture” and “identity”

Week 2: 10/3- Brief Asian American History, Culture

Reading schedule prior to Week 2:

Tue 9/27: Erika Lee, “Introduction,” <i>The Making of Asian America</i> (reserves)
Wed 9/28: Shelly Lee, “Americanization, Modernity, and the Second Generation through the 1930s,” <i>A New History of Asian America</i> , pages 175-189 (reserves)
Thur 9/29: Shelly Lee, “Americanization, Modernity...” pages 190-202
Fri-Sun 9/30-10/2: Steve Louie, “When We Wanted It Done, We Did It Ourselves,” <i>Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment</i> (reserves)
Mon 10/3: Karan Mahajan, “The Two Asian Americas,” <i>The New Yorker</i> (TritonEd weblink)

- Bring 16 keywords to class, share with provisional group.

Week 3: 10/10- Asian Americans and Sports

Tue: J. Jack Halberstam, “Foreword” and Lisa Lowe “Afterword: ‘Competing against Type,’” <i>Asian American Sporting Culture</i> Groups created on TritonEd
Wed: Oliver Wang, “Everyone Loves an Underdog: Learning from Linsanity” (75-83), <i>Asian American Sporting Culture</i>
Thur: Wang, “Everyone Loves an Underdog” ... (83-92)
Fri-Sun: Don Gonyea, “In Political Activism, Ali Pulled No Punches — And Paid A Heavy Price” (weblink); “Gridiron Guts: The Story of Football’s Carlisle Indians” and “Excerpt: The Real All Americans” (weblink + audio)
Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 1
Mon: George Johnson, “Swimming’s Racist Past Makes Simone Manuel’s Win an Even Bigger Deal” (weblink)

- In-class film: Dave Zirin, *Not Just a Game* (2010, UCSD Kanopy)

Week 4: 10/17- Asian Americans, Sports, and Colonialism

Tue: Ryan Reft, “From Perpetual Foreigner to Pacific Rim Entrepreneur” (pgs. 23-34), <i>Asian American Sporting Culture</i>
Wed: Reft, “From Perpetual...” (34-47)
Thur: Contancio R. Arnaldo, Jr., “Manny ‘Pac-Man’ Pacquiao, the Transnational Fist, and the Southern California Ringside Community,” <i>Asian American Sporting Culture</i>
Fri-Sun: Linda Maram, “From the ‘Living Doll’ to the ‘Bolo Puncher’: Prizefighting, Masculinity, and the Sporting Life” (73-87), <i>Creating Masculinity in Los Angeles’s Little Manila</i> (reserves)
Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 2
Mon: Maram, “From the ‘Living Doll’...” (87-103)

- In-class film: *Pinoy Hoops*

Week 5: 10/24- Asian Americans and Sports- Sexuality

Tue: Ariel Levy, “Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the Case of Caster Semenya” (weblink) [top half only]
Wed: Levy, “Either/Or...” (weblink) [finish]
Thur: Jessica W. Chin and David L. Andrews, “Mixed Martial Arts, Caged Orientalism, and Female Asian American Bodies,” <i>Asian American Sporting Cultures</i> (159-173)
Fri-Sun: David Leonard, “Lin, Te’o, and Asian American Masculinities in Sporting Flux,” <i>Asian American Sporting Cultures</i>
Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 3
Mon: Rachael Minyung Joo, “Traveling Ladies: Neoliberalism and the Female Athlete” (151-158) (reserves)

Week 6: 10/31- South Asian American Beauty and Fashion

Tue: Vanita Reddy, "Introduction: Beauty Matters" (1-18), *Fashioning Diaspora*

Wed: Vanita Reddy, "Introduction: Beauty Matters" (19-33)

Thur: Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies" (PDF)

Fri-Sun: Jhumpa Lahiri, "The Treatment of Bibi Haldar," *The Interpreter of Maladies* (reserves)

Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 4 and Magazine Cover posted on course blog

Mon: Barbara Calderón-Douglass, "The Folk Feminist Struggle Behind the Chola Fashion Trend" (weblink)

- **Presentation: Magazine Cover**
- In-class film: Mira Nair, *Namesake* (excerpt, Ch. 21, 1:25:00-)

Week 7: 11/7- South Asian American Beauty and Resistance

Tue: Reddy, "Prosthetic Femininity, Flexible Citizenship, and Feminist Cosmopolitics in the Fiction of Jhumpa Lahiri" (64-69, 76-86), *Fashioning Diaspora*

Due 11/1 by 5:00pm: Magazine Cover team member contributions

Wed: Reddy, "Prosthetic Femininity..." (90-100)

Thur: Monisha Das Gupta, "Contests over Culture," *Unruly Immigrants* (reserves)

Fri-Sun: Reddy, "Histories of the Cloth and the Sartorial Sentiment in Shailja Patel's *Migritude*" (178-193), *Fashioning*

Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 5 and abstract of Final Project submitted on TritonEd

Mon: Reddy, "Histories of the Cloth..." (193-205), *Fashioning Diaspora*

- In-class film: Preeti Sharma, *Raising Eyebrows* (2010)
- Guest: Preeti Sharma, Ph.D. candidate in Gender Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Week 8: 11/14- South Asian Americans and Hip Hop / Filipino American Popular Culture

Tue: Deepti Hajela, "How Hip-Hop Helped an Indian Girl Find Her Way Home" (reserves)

Wed: DJ Kuttin Kandi, "Introduction: A Hip Hop Story To Tell: It's Just Begun," *Empire of Funk: Hip Hop and Representation in Filipina/o America* (reserves)

Thur: Oliver Wang, "Prologue: The Gig" and "Introduction: A Legion of Boom," *Legions of Boom*

Fri-Sun: Wang, "Cue It Up: Social Preconditions for the Mobile Scene," *Legions of Boom*

Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 6

Mon: *Legend* (weblink, video)

Week 9: 11/21- Filipino American Popular Culture- Philippine History and Diaspora

Tue: Lucy Burns, "Splendid Dancing: Of Filipinos and Taxi Dance Halls" (49-63), *Puro Arte: Filipinos on the Stages of Empire* (reserves) and Cheryl Cambay, "Filipino American Dance Culture in Suburbia," *Empire of Funk* (reserves)

Wed: Wang, "Team Building: Mobile Crew Formations," *Legions of Boom*

Thur: Wang, "Unlimited Creations: The Mobile Scene Takes Off," *Legions of Boom*

Fri-Sun: **Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 7**

Mon: Cristal Fiel, "Legions of Boom at Bindlestiff Studio" (weblink audio)

- Guest: Cristal Fiel, Master of Library and Information Science candidate, University of Washington Information School and Ferdinand Fiel, former mobile DJ from San Francisco

Week 10: 11/28- Filipino American Popular Culture / Presentation Day

Tue: Wang, "Imaginings: Building Community in the Showcase Era," *Legions of Boom*

Wed: Wang, "Take Me Out with The Fader: The Decline of the Mobile Scene," *Legions of Boom*

Due Sun 5pm: Keywords 8

- Group presentations of Final Project
- **Due: Thursday, 11/29:** Peer Comments due on course blog by **5:00pm**