

ETHN 189: Represent! Asian Americans in Contemporary Film and Literature Session II

Instructor: Thuy Vo Dang
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Office hours: Tues. 2-3pm, Thurs. 10-11am

T-Th 11 am-1:50 pm
CSB 001
Office Location: SSB

Course Description

This course examines representations of Asian Americans in contemporary film and literature, paying close attention to the ways in which the post-1965 immigration transformed the face of Asian America. How has the category "Asian American" been constructed, and by whom? How does the "new" wave of Asian Americans transform existing paradigms of representation for this panethnic category? From "unassimilable alien" to model minority to gangster, Asian Americans have been represented in complex and contradictory ways. This course explores the contradictions within Asian American cultural representations.

Required Texts

1. *The Gangster of Love* by Jessica Hagedorn
 2. *Bone* by Fae Myenne Ng
 3. *We Should Never Meet* by Aimee Phan
- *books are available at Groundwork
4. Course Reader (available at UCSD bookstore)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation: 15%
2. Weekly response papers: 10%
3. Leading Class Discussion: 10%
4. Final Presentation: 10%
5. Midterm: 25%
6. Final Paper or Project: 30%

Schedule

Week 1: Orientals and Asian Americans

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| Aug. 2 | T. | Introduction, (screening: <i>Who Killed Vincent Chin</i>) |
| Aug. 4 | Th. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hing, Bill Ong. "Introduction," <i>Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy 1850-1990</i>. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1993. pp. 1-16. (CR)2. Kim, Elaine H. "Multiple Mirrors and Many Images: New Directions in Asian American Literature." <i>Asian American Literature: An Introduction to the Writings and their Social Context</i>. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1982. pp. 214-279, 312-320, notes. (CR)3. Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. "Racial Formation," <i>Racial Formation in the United States: from the 1960s to the 1990s</i>. New York and London: Routledge, 1994. pp. 53-76. (CR) |

Week 2: The Model Minority Myth

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| Aug. 9 | T. | (screening: <i>Harold and Kumar go to White Castle</i>) |
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1. *Bone*, Chapters 1-9
2. Lee, Robert G. "Introduction: Yellowface," *Orientalism: Asian Americans in Popular Culture*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1999. pp. 1-14. **(CR)**

- Aug. 11 Th. 1. *Bone*, Chapters 10-14
 2. Stam, Robert and Ella Shohat. "Stereotype, Realism, and the Struggle over Representation," *Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the Media*. New York and London: Routledge, 1994. pp.178-219. **(CR)**

Week 3: Hybridity and Difference

- Aug. 16 T. 1. *We Should Never Meet*
 2. Lam, Andrew. "Show and Tell." *Watermark: Vietnamese American Poetry and Prose*. Eds. Barbara Tran, Monique T.D. Truong, and Luu Truong Khoi. New York: Asian American Writers Workshop, 1998. pp. pp. 111-121. **(CR)**

- Aug. 18 Th. **MIDTERM EXAM**
 (screening: film TBA)
 1. DuBois, Thomas A. "Constructions Construed: The Representations of Southeast Asian Refugees in Academic, Popular, and Adolescent Discourse," *Amerasia Journal* 19:3 (1993): 1-25. **(CR)**
 2. Lowe, Lisa. "Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Asian American Differences." *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*. Durham and London: Duke UP, 1996. pp. 60-83. **(CR)**

Week 4: Transnational Movements

- Aug. 23 T. 1. *The Gangster of Love*, pp. 1-197
 2. Campomanes, Oscar V. "New Formations of Asian American Studies and the Question of U.S. Imperialism," *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (1997): 523-550. **(CR)**
 3. Espiritu, Yen Le. "Chapter One: Home Making" in *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2003. pp. 1-22. **(CR)**

- Aug. 25 Th. (screening: *Mississippi Masala*)
 1. *The Gangster of Love*, pp. 198-311
 2. Mehta, Binita. "Emigrants Twice Displaced: Race, Color, and Identity in Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala*." *Screening Asian Americans*. Ed. Peter X. Feng. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2002. pp. 217-234. **(CR)**
 3. Gopinath, Gayatri. "Nostalgia, Desire, Disapora: South Asian Sexualities in Motion," *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (1997): 467-489. **(CR)**

Week 5: Alternative Spaces

- Aug. 30 T. (screening: *My America...[or honk of you love Buddha]*)
 1. Tajima, Renee, "Moving the Image: Asian American Independent Filmmaking 1970-1990." *Moving the Image: Asian Pacific American Media Arts*. Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1991. pp. 10-33. **(CR)**

- Sept. 1 Th. **FINAL PRESENTATIONS (FINAL PAPERS/PROJECTS DUE)**