

Introduction to Asian American Studies

(AAS 100, CMLIT 101, ENGL 404)

T/Th 9:45-11:00 (008 Mueller / 060 Willard)

Professor Tina Chen
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Hours: R 11-1 and by appointment

Professor Eric Hayot
Burrowes 441 / 865-1188 / ehayot@psu.edu
Hours: T/R 11-noon and by appointment

Texts:

Zhou and Gatewood, *Contemporary Asian America: A Multidisciplinary Reader* (NYU Press; ISBN 978-0814797136)

Wu and Song, *Asian American Studies: A Reader* (Rutgers UP, ISBN: 978-0813527260)

Hagedorn, *Dogeaters* (Penguin, ISBN: 978-0140149043)

Otsuka, *When the Emperor Was Divine* (Anchor Books, ISBN: 978-0385721813)

Yang, *American Born Chinese* (Square Fish, ISBN: 978-0312384487)

Gotanda, *Yankee Dang You Die* (Dramatist's Play Service, ISBN: 978-0822212836)

Smith, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (Anchor books, ISBN: 978-0385473767)

In addition to these we will cover a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. They will be available either through ANGEL or through the E-Reserve system. You are responsible for obtaining them, printing them out, and bringing them to class with you.

Course information:

This course introduces students to the history and culture of Asian Americans, and to the field of Asian American Studies. It focuses on the political, legal, social, and cultural forces encountered by East, South, Southeast, and West Asian immigrants in the United States, and on the ways in which those forces were themselves transformed by Asian immigrants. It also places Asian American history into the larger context of the history of Asia and Asian diasporas more generally.

Grading:

There will be three exams and seven quizzes. Each exam counts for 25 percent of your grade; the quizzes, with the two lowest scores dropped, also count for 25 percent of your grade (5 percent each). Quizzes will be given in the first 10 minutes of class.

Lateness and absences:

There are no excused absences unless you need to represent the university in some official way (as an athlete, for instance) or it is a religious holiday for you. Unexcused absences may be made up if you communicate with one of us (via email) before the absence, and submit, upon your return to class, a 300-word report on the reading material for the class you missed.

Don't be late to class. Unexcused late work will receive a grade of 0. If you are not in class when we take a quiz or an exam, you will receive a grade of 0, unless you have communicated with us in advance and arranged to make the material up.

Plagiarism and academic honesty:

If you use someone else's ideas, whether through direct quotation or paraphrase, you need to say so. Use parenthetical references and a works cited list (as explained in the *MLA Style Guide*, available in the library or at the bookstore) to show your reader where your ideas are coming from.

Dishonesty of any other kind will not be tolerated. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Acts of dishonesty will result in academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.

Equal access:

Penn State encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible.

Daily syllabus. Have everything read before coming to class.

January

12 [T] Introduction

14 [R] **ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT MOVEMENTS**

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

Karen Umemoto, "On Strike! San Francisco State College Strike, 1968-1969: The Role of Asian American Students" (CAA)

19 [T] **RACIAL FORMATION AND ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITIES**

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

Yen Le Espiritu, "Ethnicity and Panethnicity" [R]

21 Lisa Lowe, "Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Marking Asian American Differences" (CAA)

26 [T] Ginu Kamani, "Ciphers" (AAS)

28 [R] **FRAMING ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORIES**

Gary Okihiro, "Where and Where I Enter" (AAS)

Ronald Takaki, "From a Different Shore" [R]

February

2 [T] **the Chinese Exclusion Act, Angel Island, and Paper Sons**

Paul Ong and John M. Liu, "U.S. Immigration Policies and Asian Migration"
(CAA)

Angel Island poetry

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=47>

Sigrid Nunez, "Chang" (AAS)

4 [R] **Japanese Internment**

Executive Order 9066: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=74>

<http://www.asianamericanmedia.org/jainternment/>

Hisaye Yamamoto, "The Legend of Miss Sasagawara" (AAS)

Lonny Kaneko, "The Shoyu Kid" [R]

9 [T] When the Emperor Was Divine, Julie Otsuka

11 [R] When the Emperor Was Divine, cont'd.

16 [T] **Vietnamese Refugees: Complicating the Immigrant Narrative**

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

Takaki, Vietnamese chapter [R]

selections from Watermark: Vietnamese American Poetry and Prose

18 [R] Examination Preparation

23 [T] **Complicating the Immigrant Narrative, part 2**

Short stories [R]

25 [R] **EXAM 1**

March

2 [T] **LABORING BODIES AND THE GENDER(ING) OF WORK**

On the Railroads

Frank Chin, from The Chinaman Pacific and Frisco R.R. Co

Maxine Hong Kingston, from China Men

Peter Kwong, "The Chinese and the American Labor Unions" (AAS)

4 [R] Ronald Takaki, "The Sugar Kingdom: The Making of Plantation Hawai'i" (AAS)

Ruth Akamine, "Class, Ethnicity, and the Transformation of Hawai'i's Sugar
Workers, 1920-1946" [R]

-- SPRING BREAK --

16 [T] **The Plantation Economies of Hawai'i**

Film: Picture Bride (Kayo Hatta)

18 [R] Film: Picture Bride, cont'd.

- 23 [T] **Asian American Women and Sweatshop Labor**
 Min Zhou and Regina Nordquist, "Work and Its Place in the Live of Immigrant Women: Garment Workers in New York City's Chinatown" (CAA)
 Selections from Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take On the Global Factory, Miriam Yoon Ching Louie
- 25 [R] **Korean Entrepreneurs and the LA Riots of 1992**
 Jennifer Lee, "Striving for the American Dream: Struggle, Success, and Intergroup Conflict Among Korean Immigrant Entrepreneurs" (CAA)
 Elaine Kim, "Home is Where the *Han* Is: A Korean-American Perspective on the Los Angeles Upheavals" (AAS)
 Film: Sai-I-Gu
- 30 [T] Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992, Anna Deavere Smith
- April
- 1 [R] **EXAM 2**
- 6 [T] **STEREOTYPES AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION**
 "Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S." (AAS)
 Robert Lee essay in CAA
- 8 [R] American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang
- 13 [T] Yankee Dawg You Die, Philip Kan Gotanda
- 15 [R] **Revisiting MHK and FC: the Woman Warrior v. Chinaman Pacific**
 "White Tigers," Maxine Hong Kingston [R]
 "The Most Popular Book in China," Frank Chin [R]
- 20 [T] King-Kok Cheung, "The Woman Warrior vs. the Chinaman Pacific: Must a Chinese American Critic Choose Between Feminism and Heroism?" (AAS)
 Susan Koshy, "The Fiction of Asian American Literature" (AAS)
- 22 [R] **TRANSNATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAS**
Dogeaters, Jessica Hagedorn
- 27 [T] Dogeaters, Jessica Hagedorn
- 29 [R] Masao Miyoshi, "A Borderless World?: From Colonialism to Transnationalism and the Decline of the Nation-State" (AAS)