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# ***ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: PROCESSES OF MOVEMENT AND DISLOCATION***

History 160/Asian American Studies 160

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Fall Semester 2008

1651 Humanities; TR 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

**Professor:**            **Cindy I-Fen Cheng**  
Office:                 5106 Humanities  
Office Hours:        Thursdays 11 – 1:30 pm  
                                 and by appointment  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines how the immigration of people designated as “Asians” to the U.S. during the mid-nineteenth and twentieth century was formative to the development of the U.S. Not only does the survey of the movement and dislocation of these people trace the rise of industrialization in the U.S. and the participation of the U.S. in the global political economy, but it also sheds light on the nation’s imperialistic and expansionist endeavors.

The focus on the immigration of “Asians” to the U.S. unfolds how these economic, political, and legislative processes shaped the making of the U.S. national identity or what it means to be an “American.” Specifically, these processes unpack how categories such as nationality, race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality worked together to define the multiple and often contradictory meanings of the “American.” The study of “Asian” immigration to the U.S. thus elucidates how U.S. society was differentially structured and organized during the mid-nineteenth and twentieth century.

Beyond the confines of the U.S. nation-state, the inquiry into “Asian” immigration to the U.S. exposes the linkages between the U.S. and other nations. These linkages reveal the often uneven flow of people, capital, goods, ideas, services, labor, technologies, etc. between the U.S. and other nations. Thus, in addition to exposing the how U.S. society is structured, “Asian” immigration to the U.S. sheds light on the place of the U.S. in the larger world order. It offers a critical assessment on whether “globalization” is indeed leading to a more equitable world order or an increased social unevenness among nation-states. These linkages, moreover, alter the meaning of the “American.” As we will explore this semester, the increased frequency of movement among Asian immigrants between the U.S. and other countries has challenged and transformed the national identity of the American into a *transnational* articulation of belonging.

This course consists of unannounced quizzes, two examinations, two critical analysis papers, and lecture and discussion attendance.

## **ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION:**

The UW-Madison Asian American Studies certificate program provides students with an opportunity to develop a sustained intellectual focus on Asian American racial formation, history, literature, and culture. Interdisciplinary in nature, the certificate can be obtained by completing 15 credits of coursework.

The certificate program is open to any undergraduate student regardless of major or college who has an interest in Asian American Studies. Interested students should contact the Asian American Studies Program (303 Ingraham Hall) and meet with the Director (Lynet Uttal at [LuttaL@wisc.edu](mailto:LuttaL@wisc.edu)) to discuss their study plans and file a Certificate Declaration form.

More info at: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/aasp/course/certificate.htm>

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

Unannounced Quizzes	5%	50 points
Discussion Attendance and Participation	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 1 (5-7 pages)	15%	150 points
Exam 1	15%	150 points
Critical Analysis Paper 2 (7 pages)	20%	200 points
Final Exam 2 (Comprehensive)	25%	250 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

#### **COURSE POLICIES:**

Attendance: Regular and prompt attendance, active participation, and mature attentiveness during lecture meetings are mandatory. The professor will not distribute lecture notes via e-mail for students who miss lecture nor will lecture notes be posted on the course webpage. There are no excused absences for lecture.

Readings: Students are expected to complete each week's required readings before that Tuesday's lecture. You need to bring your books, readers, and lecture notes to each discussion section.

Discussion Sections: You will fail the course even if you do all the written work but *do not* attend weekly discussion sections. Your discussion leader has full authority to assign homework, administer quizzes, and require drafts of papers. She will provide you with additional guidelines and policies for the discussion section.

Quizzes, Writing Assignments, and Examinations: There will be unannounced quizzes on course materials in lecture. Quizzes will always be administered during the first ten to fifteen minutes of class. There will be no make-up quizzes given, without exception. Assignments are always due during the first ten minutes of lecture. Any assignment received after the first ten minutes of lecture on the due date is considered late and will not be evaluated or credited. No late work will be accepted, without exception. E-mailed submissions of papers are not permitted and will not be credited or graded, without exception. Exam 1 and Final Exam 2 will be given according to the schedule indicated in the course syllabus and according to university schedule, without exception. No incompletes will be granted for the course except in cases of personal emergencies, subject to the prompt notification of the professor, valid documentation of the particular emergency, and the discretion of the professor. Students are responsible for retaining a copy of all exams, quizzes, and assignments.

Honesty: Please read the university policy on plagiarism. All information borrowed from print sources or the internet must be clearly identified and properly credited. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating on exams, quizzes, and written assignments will result in an "F" grade for the assignment and the course.

Abilities: Any student who feels that he or she may need special accommodation due to a disability should contact me privately. Please also contact the Mcburney Disability Resource Center (<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>) at 608-263-2741 (phone); 263-6393 (TTY); 263-2998 (FAX); [FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu](mailto:FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu) to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Ground Rules: This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history and culture and students are encouraged to share their questions and ideas in lecture and discussion sections. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of fellow students, the graduate instructor, as well as the professor.

Each student is warmly encouraged to meet with the professor and the graduate instructor during office hours and by appointment.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- COURSE READER ® is available at Bob's Copy Shop located at 1401 University Avenue, Suite C. Hours: M-F 7:30 am – 5 pm; Phone: 608.251.2936. Orders can be placed online: [www.bobscopyshop.com](http://www.bobscopyshop.com)
- Meena Alexander, *Fault Lines: A Memoir* (CUNY: Feminist Press), 2003. This book is available for purchase at Rainbow Bookstore located on 426 West Gilman Street. Hours: MWF 10-6, TR 10-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5; Phone: 608.257.6050; [www.rainbowbookstore.org](http://www.rainbowbookstore.org)

**The required texts are available on reserve at the College Library.**

**FILMS:**

- *Picture Bride*
- *Chinatown Files*
- *Bontoc Eulogy*
- *Women Outside*

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1: Introduction – Unpacking Key Concepts and Terms**

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T 9.2 Labor Day  
R 9.4

Readings:

- Bill Ong Hing, "The Western European New World and the New Americans" in *Defining American Through Immigration Policy* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 1-27. ®
- Sucheng Chan, "The International Context of Asian Emigration" in *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History* (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1991), 3-23. ®

**WEEK 2: Development of U. S. Industries and Markets: Mining and Railroads**

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T 9.9  
R 9.11

Readings:

- Jack Chen, *The Chinese of America* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1980), 3-77. ®

**WEEK 3: Development of U. S. Industries and Markets: Plantation Economy in Hawaii**

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T 9.16

R 9.18

Readings:

- Ronald Takaki, "Raising Cane: The World of Plantation Hawaii" in *Strangers From a Different Shore* (New York: Penguin Books, 1990), 132-176. ®

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**WEEK 4: Development of U. S. Industries and Markets: Domestic Service**

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T 9.23

R 9.25 Film: *Picture Bride*

Readings:

- Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "Women and Labor Migration," "Japanese American Immigration and Settlement," and "Careers in Domestic Service" in *Issei, Nisei, War Bride* (Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1986), 3-41; 99-140. ®

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**WEEK 5: Chinese Exclusion Movement**

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T 9.30

R 10.2

Readings:

- Sucheng Chan, "The Exclusion of Chinese Women" in *Entry Denied*, edited by Sucheng Chan (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991), 94-146. ®
- Jack Chen, *The Chinese of America* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1980), 127-162. ®

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**WEEK 6: Implications of Exclusion**

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T 10.7 Critical Analysis Paper #1 DUE; Film: *Chinatown Files*

R 10.9

Readings:

- Erika Lee, "Chinese Exclusion and the Origins of American Gatekeeping" and "Race, Class, Gender, and Citizenship in the Enforcement of the Exclusion Laws" in *At America's Gates* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 19-46; 75-109. ®
- Eithne Luibheid, "A Blueprint for Exclusion" in *Entry Denied* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002), 31-54. ®

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**WEEK 7: Making Asians as Undesirable Aliens**

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T 10.14

R 10.16

Readings:

- Mae Ngai, "The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 and the Reconstruction of Race in Immigration Act" in *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 21-55. ®

- Bill Ong Hing, "The Undesirable Asian" and "The 1952 Act" in *Defining American Through Immigration Policy* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 28-92. ®

## **WEEK 8: Manifest Destiny and the Expansion of the U.S. to the Pacific**

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T 10.21 **EXAM 1**  
 R 10.23 Film: Bontoc Eulogy

### Readings:

- H. Brett Melendy, "Filipinos in the United States" in *Counterpoint* edited by Emma Gee (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976), 423-435. ®
- Mae Ngai, "From Colonial Subject to Undesirable Alien" in *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 96-126. ®

## **WEEK 9: Legacies of War and Colonization**

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T 10.28  
 R 10.30

### Readings:

- Kingsley K. Lyu, "Korean Nationalist Activities in Hawaii and America 1901-1945" in *Counterpoint* edited by Emma Gee (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976), 106-133. ®
- Lili M. Kim, "Redefining the Boundaries of Traditional Gender Roles" in *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women*, eds. Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura (New York: New York University Press, 2003), 106-119. ®
- Eleana Kim, "Wedding, Citizenship and Culture" *Social Text* 12:1 (Spring 2003): 57-81. ®

## **WEEK 10: Legacies of War and Colonization**

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T 11.4  
 R 11.6 Film: *Women on the Outside*

### Readings:

- William Liu, *Transition to Nowhere* (Nashville: Charter House, 1979), 1-91. ®

## **WEEK 11: The Southeast Asian War and the Refugee**

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T 11.11  
 R 11.13

### Readings:

- Dennis Gallagher, "United States and the Indochinese Refugees" in *Indochinese Refugees* (Bangkok: Institute of Asian Studies, 1988), 230-248. ®
- James M. Freeman and Nguyen Dinh Hua, "Victims of Politics" in *Voices from the Camps* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003), 3-18. ®
- Jeremy Hein, "American Communist Containment in Southeast Asia" in *From Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1994), 11-25. ®

## **WEEK 12: The Southeast Asian War and the Refugee**

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T 11.18  
R 11.20

### Readings:

- Linda Trinh Vo, "Managing Survival" in *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women*, eds. Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura (New York: New York University Press, 2003), 237-252. ®
- Sucheng Chan, "Scarred, Yet Undeclared" in *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women*, eds. Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura (New York: New York University Press, 2003) 253-267. ®
- Yen Le Espiritu, "The "We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose" Syndrome" in *American Quarterly* (Jun 2006; 58: 2; Research Library Core), 329-352. ®

## **WEEK 13: Global Political Economy**

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T 11.25 **Critical Analysis Paper #2 – Part I DUE**  
R 11.27 Thanksgiving Holiday – No Lecture

### Readings:

- Sucheng Chan, "New Immigrants and Refugees" in *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History* (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1991), 145-165. ®
- Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, "Asian Immigration Women and Global Restructuring, 1970s-1990s" in *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women*, eds. Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura (New York: New York University Press, 2003), 271-285. ®
- Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, "Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers and then International Division of Labor" *Gender and Society* 14:4 (August 2000):560-580. ®

## **WEEK 14: Diaspora and Transnationality**

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T 12.2 **Critical Analysis Paper #2 – Part II DUE**  
R 12.4

### Readings:

- Meena Alexander, *Fault Lines*, Chapters 1-7.

## **WEEK 15: Diaspora and Transnationality**

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T 12.2  
R 12.4

### Readings:

- Meena Alexander, *Fault Lines*, Chapters 8-13.

**Final Examination: Thursday, December 16, 2008**