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# ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: SETTLEMENT AND NATIONAL BELONGING

## Asian American Studies/History 161

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Spring Semester 2014

Humanities 1651  
MWF, 12:05-12:55pm

**Professor: Chong A. Moua**  
Office: Humanities 5265  
Office Hours: Monday, 1:00pm-3:00pm and by appointment  
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**Graduate Instructor: Dennis Choi**  
Office: Humanities 4269  
Office Hours: Monday, 3:00pm-4:00pm & Friday, 12:00pm-1:00pm and by appointment  
E-mail: dhchoi@wisc.edu

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### I. Course Description

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This course explores how the racial formation of Asian Americans as both racial minorities and “perpetual foreigners” makes Asian Americans a fascinating subject of study to better understand the terms that govern U.S. national belonging. The examination of Asian Americans and U.S. national belonging allows us to consider not only how race regulated who had better and more access to society’s resources than others; it also allows us to examine how our fear of the foreign and our adherence to assimilationist beliefs dictate the rights and treatment of immigrants.

We will begin our study examining citizenship laws and how race determined historically who could be naturalized as American citizens. In addition to exploring the legal definition of citizenship, we will examine the terms of cultural citizenship where one’s conformity to Anglo American culture helped to mediate a sense of belonging in U.S. society. We will examine how the cultural norm of Anglo Americans shaped the curriculums of higher education along with the stories and bodies that popular media featured. We will also explore the activities of those who sought to challenge this norm in hopes of creating a more flexible vision of who and what counts as American.

## II. Course Requirements and Grading

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

Discussion Attendance and Participation	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 1 (5 pages)	15%	150 points
Exam 1	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 2 (5-7 pages)	20%	200 points
Exam 2 – Final Exam	25%	250 points
(Extra Credit		25 points)
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TOTAL	100%	1000 points

## III. Course Policies

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### Ground Rules

This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history and culture and students are warmly encouraged to share their questions and ideas in lecture and discussion sections. Since there will be different viewpoints and analysis, please respect the comments and positions of your fellow students, graduate instructors, and professor. We all need to work together to create a safe environment that fosters critical thinking and respect for different ways of thinking.

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

### Attendance

Regular and prompt attendance, active participation, and mature attentiveness during lecture meetings are mandatory. The professor and graduate instructor will not distribute lectures notes via e-mail for students who miss lecture and lecture notes will not be posted on the course webpage.

### Discussion Section

You will NOT pass this course even if you do all the written work and exams but do not attend weekly discussion sections. Your graduate instructor has full authority to assign homework, administer quizzes, and require drafts of papers. He/She will provide you with additional guidelines and policies for discussion section.

It is mandatory for all students to attend weekly discussion sections as they provide vital opportunities for students to engage in critical discussion and analysis of readings and lecture materials with their graduate instructor and fellow students. It will be the student's responsibility to acquire any missing discussion notes resulting from absences. Poor discussion section attendance may result in a class failure.

### Writing Assignments and Exams

Writing assignments will be collected IN LECTURE on their due date. Students have until the end of the lecture period to hand in their paper to the professor or graduate instructor. Any

assignment received after the end of the lecture period on the due date is considered late and will not be evaluated or credited. No LATE WORK will be accepted. E-mailed submissions of papers are not permitted and will not be credited or graded, without exception.

Exam 1 and Exam 2 will be given according to the course schedule and according to the university's scheduled final exam date.

No incompletes will be granted except in cases of personal emergencies subject to the discretion of the professor and valid documentation of emergency. 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 and/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.

Please go to the following link and read the university's policy on plagiarism and misconduct as well as the consequences:

<http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/acadintegrity.html>

### **Abilities**

Any student who feels that he or she may need special accommodations due to a disability should contact the professor.

Please also contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion:

<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>  
(608) 263-2741 (Phone)  
(608) 225-7956 (Text)  
(608) 263-2998 (Fax)  
[mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu)

## **IV. Required Texts and Materials**

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### **Required Texts**

- 1) **Course Reader**
  - Available at **Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue**
- 2) **John Okada, *No-No Boy*** (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979).
  - Available at **Rainbow Bookstore located at 426 W. Gilman Street.**

**\*\*A copy of the book and Course Reader will be available on reserve at College Library\*\***

## Films (Shown in lecture only)

- *Who Killed Vincent Chin*
- *Fall of the I-Hotel*
- *Sa-I-Gu*
- *San Francisco State: On Strike*
- *Slaying the Dragon*
- *Grace Lee Project*

**\*\*There will be NO out-of-class film viewings\*\***

## V. Course Readings and Schedule

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### Week 1 Introduction

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M 1.20 MLK Day—No School  
W 1.22  
F 1.24

### Week 2 Race and National Belonging

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M 1.27  
W 1.29  
F 1.31

Readings:

- 1) Devon W. Carbado, "Racial Naturalization," *American Quarterly* 57:3 (2005): 633-658.  
\*\*Also available on course webpage at learn@UW\*\*

### Week 3 Setting the Terms of Citizenship: The Case of Wong Kim Ark

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M 2.3  
W 2.5  
F 2.7

Readings:

- 1) Mitchell Young, "Establishing Citizenship Rights for Children of Immigrants," in *Immigration: Issues on Trial* (Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2008): 20-53.

### Week 4 Racial Qualification for Citizenship: Ozawa and Thind

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M 2.10  
W 2.12  
F 2.14

Readings:

- 1) *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*, 1922.
- 2) Yuji Ichioka, "The Struggle Against Exclusion: Question for Naturalization Rights," in *The Issei* (New York: Free Press, 1988), 210-226.
- 3) Ian Haney Lopez, "Ozawa and Thind," in *White By Law* (New York: New York University Press, 1996), 79-109.

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**Week 5**                      **U.S. Foreign Relations and National Belonging**

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M     2.17  
W     2.19  
F     2.21

Readings:

- 1) Neil Gotanda, "Towards Repeal of Asian Exclusion," in *Asian Americans and Congress: A Documentary History*, 309-328.
- 2) Mae M. Ngai, "The WW II Internment of Japanese Americans and the Citizenship Renunciation Cases," in *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), 175-201.

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**Week 6**                      **U.S. Foreign Relations and National Belonging**

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M     2.24                      **\*\*CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #1 DUE\*\***  
   Film: Who Killed Vincent Chin?  
W     2.26  
F     2.28

Readings:

- 1) John Okada, *No No Boy*, Chapters 1-5.

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**Week 7**                      **Cultural Citizenship**

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M     3.3  
W     3.5  
F     3.7                      **Exam 1 Review Session**

Readings:

- 1) John Okada, *No No Boy*, Chapters 6-11.

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**Week 8**                      **Ethnic Enclaves**

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M     3.10                      **\*\*Exam 1\*\***  
W     3.12  
F     3.14

Readings:

- 1) Sucheng Chan, "The Social Organization of Asian Immigrant Communities," in *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History* (Boston: Twayne Publishing, 1991), 63-78.

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**Week 9**                      **SPRING BREAK ☺**

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M	3.17	No Class Meeting
W	3.19	No Class Meeting
F	3.21	No Class Meeting

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**Week 10**                      **Ethnic Enclaves: The Case of Monterey Park**

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M	3.24	
W	3.26	
F	3.28	Film: Fall of the I-Hotel

Readings:

- 1) Timothy Fong, *The First Suburban Chinatown*, 15-72.

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**Week 11**                      **The Los Angeles Uprising**

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M	3.31	
W	4.2	
F	4.4	Film: Sa-I-Gu

Readings:

- 1) Melvin L. Oliver, James Johnson, and Walter Farrell, "Anatomy of a Rebellion," in *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*, 117-141.
- 2) Sumi Cho, "Korean Americans vs. African Americans," in *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*, 196-211.

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**Week 12**                      **Crossing Borders, Constructing Homelands**

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M	4.7	
W	4.9	
F	4.11	

Readings:

- 1) Martin F. Manalansan IV, "Out There," in *Global Divas*, 62-88.
- 2) Jen Reck, "Homeless Gay and Transgender Youth of Color in San Francisco," *Journal of LGBT Youth* 6:2-3 (2009): 223-242.

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**Week 13**                      **The Fight for Institutional Belonging**

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M	4.14	<b>**CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2—PART I DUE**</b> Film: San Francisco State: On Strike
W	4.16	
F	4.18	

Readings:

- 1) Mike Murase, "Ethnic Studies and Higher Education for Asian Americans," in *Counterpoint*, 205-223.
- 2) Karen Umemoto, "'On Strike!'" in *Contemporary Asian America*, 49-79.

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**Week 14**                      **Media Representations and Social Belonging**

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M     4.21                      **\*\*CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2—PART II DUE\*\***  
Film: Slaying the Dragon  
W     4.23  
F     4.25

## Readings:

- 1) Elaine Kim, "Asian Americans and Popular Culture," in *Dictionary of Asian American History*, 99-114.
- 2) Christine Bacareza Balance, "How It Feels to Be Viral Me," *Women's Studies Quarterly* 10:1-2 (2012): 138-152.

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**Week 15**                      **Asian American Popular Culture**

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M     4.28                      Film: Grace Lee Project  
W     4.30  
F     5.2

## Readings:

- 1) Maira Sunaina, *Desis in the House* (Philadelphia; Temple University Press, 2002): 29-82.

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**Week 16**                      **Wrapping Things Up**

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M     5.5  
W     5.7  
F     5.9                      **\*\*Final Exam Review\*\***

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**Final Exam Week**

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**Final Exam**  
**Tuesday, May 13, 2014**  
**7:25pm-9:25pm**