Course Description:

Throughout the semester, we will explore the provocative question, “How does one become an American?” Our understanding of this query is indeed of great importance since being an American secures us certain rights and grants us access to society’s resources such as schools, financial aid, social security, bank loans, and medical benefits. It also influences the kinds of stories we tell, the movies we make, the histories we write, and the news that we report.

In order to develop a better awareness of the values that inform our understanding of the American, we will consider how ideas about race, gender, class, and sexuality influence who we recognize as an American. This examination also sheds light on the ways racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia limits people’s rights and access to society’s resources as well as marginalize their experiences in the stories we tell. In other words, it seeks to explain the social, economic, and cultural divisions in our society and offers ways to challenge and contest these inequalities.

While belonging to a nation provides many benefits, this course will also examine why some choose not to be a part of the U.S. and are not just being excluded from it. For instance, we will consider whether there are even greater advantages to “unbelong.” Moreover, we will explore if it is possible to belong to multiple nations without compromising one’s Americaness.

We will consider several critical contexts to develop our understanding of how one becomes an American. We will not only consider theories on belonging but will also examine the effects laws, place-making, political and cultural representation have on determining one’s sense of legitimacy in society.

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

Course Requirements and Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unannounced Quizzes</td>
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<td>Discussion Attendance and Participation</td>
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<td>Critical Analysis Paper 1 (5-7 pages)</td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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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 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 for purchase at Bob’s Copy Shop located at 616 University Ave; For hours and contact info visit their website: www.bobscopyshop.com.

A copy of the COURSE READER is available on reserve at the College Library.

Films:
• Who Killed Vincent Chin
• History and Memory
• aka Don Bonus
• Fall of the I-Hotel
• Sa-I-Gu
• Slaying the Dragon
- Forbidden City, USA
- Grace Lee Project
- Various film and music clips

**Course Schedule:**

### Week 1: Introduction; Unpacking "Identities"

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### Week 2: Theories on Belonging

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**Readings:**

### Week 3: Legal Definitions of Citizenship

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**Readings:**

### Week 4: Legal Definitions of Citizenship

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**Readings:**
- United States v Bhagat Singh Thind, 1922.
- Elizabeth Hull, “Naturalization and Denaturalization” in Asian Americans and the Supreme Court, 403-424.

### Week 5: Legal Definitions of Citizenship and Japanese American Internment

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R 2.22 Film: History and Memory

Readings:

WEEK 6: Race and Place

T 2.27 CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #1 DUE; Film: aka Don Bonus
R 3.2

Readings:
- Nayan Shah, Contagious Divides, 1-103.

WEEK 7: Race and Place: Chinatown

T 3.6
R 3.8

Readings:
- Timothy Fong, The First Suburban Chinatown, 15-72.

WEEK 8: Race and Place: Ethnic Enclaves

T 3.13 Exam One
R 3.15

Readings:

WEEK 9: Race and Place: Watts, Koreatown, and South Central

T 3.20 Film: Fall of the I-Hotel
R 3.22

Readings:
- Martin F. Manalansan IV, “‘Out There’ ” in Global Divas, 62-88.
### WEEK 10: Race and Place: Watts, Koreatown, and South Central

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<td>Film: Sa-I-Gu</td>
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Readings:
- Staff of the Los Angeles Times, Understanding the Riots, 6-65.
- Sumi Cho, “Korean Americans vs. African Americans” in Reading Rodney King, 196-211.

### WEEK 11: Spring Break

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### WEEK 12: Institutional Belonging

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Readings:
- Mary Dudziak, Cold War Civil Rights, 3-46.
- Various newspaper and magazine clippings.

### WEEK 13: Institutional Belonging

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Readings:

### WEEK 14: Popular Culture

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<td>CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 - PART II DUE; Film: Slaying the Dragon</td>
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Readings:
- Sunaina Marr Maira, Desis in the House, 29-82.
**WEEK 15: Popular Culture**

T  5.1  Film: Forbidden City USA
R  5.3  Film: Grace Lee Project

Readings:
- Shirley Hune, “Doing Gender with a Feminist Gaze” in Contemporary Asian America, 413-443.

**WEEK 16: Popular Culture**

T  5.8
R  5.10  Final Review Session

Readings:
- Maxine Hong Kingston, China Men, 3-5.
- Carlos Buloson, America is in the Heart, 119-167.

**Final Examination:**  Sunday, May 13, 2007 at 2:45pm