Asian American History 1847 to 1965

Asian American Studies 240

Fall 2005

Professor:	Cindy I-Fen Cheng
Office:	5106 Mosse Humanities Building
Office Hours:	TR 11am – noon; and By Appointment
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Class Meetings:	TR 9:30-10:45 am; 290 Nutritional Science

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Asian American history is an intriguing cultural production. It at once calls into question the privileging of certain ideas, events, and people from historical memory and elides the same from that memory. It both challenges and is complicit with dominant worldviews. These inclusions and exclusions generate, reinforce, and exhibit the social unevenness embedded in U.S. society and the larger world order. In addition to being a formative cultural production that is actively generating and contesting the make-up of our national memory, it is itself a documentation and marker of the processes by which selected people, events, and ideas are constructed to be the norms of society while others are relegated as minorities. More importantly, it demonstrates how the writing of history is a socially meaningful activity that contributes to how, what, and why we document and represent the way we do and how these "choices" reveal our understandings of how society operates. Rather than just an unmediated window into the experiences of Asians in the U.S., it asks why it is important to even document or overlook their experiences and why it is critical to consider and understand how and what is represented.

Asian American history, in this view, traces the making of the U.S. national identity and underscores how this formation is contingent upon how Asians in the U.S. are understood and remembered. It unfolds how the social, economic, and political development of the U.S. is deeply connected and influenced by the world at large. These linkages become comprehensible and are subsequently read through the movement of people, services, goods, ideas, and capital between the U.S. and various Asian countries. Asian American history further reveals how the make-up of the U.S. national identity is contingent upon the construction and interplay among identity categories such as race, nationality, gender, class, and sexuality – all of which are at work to make known and divide legitimate subjects of this nation-state from the illegitimate. The goal of this class is to unpack these complex series of processes involved in the construction of the U.S. national identity. As writings and media clips from various academic disciplines such as Anthropology, Sociology, English, and History contribute to and shape our understanding of Asian American history, we will critically examine these various texts to consider the narrative practices adopted in each discipline to tell story of Asian American history.

This course consists of weekly quizzes and three take home examinations. Students are also required to produce a final comprehensive analysis that demonstrate their mastery over key themes developed in this course.

*** 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 such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

• Class Participation
  ○ Weekly Quizzes (200)
  ○ Attendance and Class Discussion (100)
	30%	300 points

• Exam 1	15%	150 points
• Exam 2	15%	150 points
• Exam 3	15%	150 points
• Final Paper	25%	250 points
TOTAL	**100%**	**1000 points**

COURSE POLICIES

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

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 class. Any assignment received after the first ten minutes of class on the due date is considered late and will not be evaluated or credited. No late work will be accepted, without exception. No incompletes will be granted for the course except in cases of personal emergencies, subject to the discretion of the professor. Students are responsible for retaining a copy of all quizzes and assignments.

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 or quizzes will result in an "F" grade for the assignment and the course.

This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting Asian American history and students are encouraged to share their readings and analysis of assigned texts. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of the professor and your fellow students.

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

REQUIRED TEXTS

- COURSE READER ® available at the Humanities Copy Center; Located at 1650 Humanities; Hours: 7:45 - 11:45am, 12:30 - 4:10pm ; Phone: 263-3718 or 263-1803

- FULL LENGTH TEXTS available at the Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative; Located at 426 West Gilman Street; Hours: MWF 10-6, TR 10-8, Sat. 10- 6, Sun 12-5; Phone: 257-6050
  1. Carlos Bulosan, *America is in the Heart*
  2. Maxine Hong Kingston, *China Men*
  3. Chris Friday, *Organizing Asian American Labor*
  4. Ronald Takaki, *Pau Hana*

A copy of the COURSE READER along with all assigned FULL LENGTH TEXTS are on reserve at the College Library.

FILMS

- *Bontoc Eulogy*
- *Dirty Laundry*
- *A Dollar A Day and Ten Cents A Dance*
- *Forbidden City, U.S.A.*
- *History and Memory*

COURSE SCHEDULE

WHEN AND WHERE WE ENTER

WEEK 1

T 9.6 **Introduction; Unpacking terms**

R 9.8 **The Institutionalization of Asian American Studies**

Readings:

- Yamada, Mitsue, "Looking Out" in *Camp Notes and Other Poems* (New York: Kitchen Table, 1992), 39. ®
- Murase, Mike, "Ethnic Studies and Higher Education for Asian Americans" *Counterpoint* edited by Emmy Gee (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976), 205-223. ®
- Espiritu, Yen Le, *Asian American Panethnicity* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992), 1-52. ®

WEEK 2

T 9.13 **"Asian Americans" as a Category of Analysis**

R 9.15 **"Asian Americans" as a Category of Analysis – Q 1**

Readings:

- Lowe, Lisa, "Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Marking Asian American Differences" in *Contemporary Asian America*, edited by Min Zhou and James V. Gatewood (New York: New York University Press, 2000), 677-697. ®
- Shankar, Lavina Dhingra and Rajini Srikanth, editors, *A Part yet Apart: South Asians in Asian America* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998), ix-78. ®

U.S. AND THE ORIENT

WEEK 3

T 9.20 **Orientalism and the Shaping of American Culture**

R 9.22 **Orientalism and the Shaping of American Culture – Q 2**

Readings:

- Tchen, John Kuo Wei, *New York Before Chinatown* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999), xv-153. ®

IMMIGRATION AND LABOR

WEEK 4

T 9.27 **The International Context**

R 9.29 **Capitalist Demands and Colonial Impact – Q 3**

Readings:

- Chan, Sucheng, *Asian Americans* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1991), 3-42. ®
- Chen, Jack, *The Chinese of America* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1980), 3-96; 109-116. ®
- Cheng Hirata, Lucie, "Free, Indenture, Enslaved" *Signs* 5:1 (Autumn, 1979), 3-29. ®

WEEK 5

T 10.4 **Capitalist Demands and Colonial Impact**

R 10.6 **Capitalist Demands and Colonial Impact – Q 4**

Readings:

- Ichioka, Yuji, *The Issei* (New York: The Free Press, 1988), 1-90. ®
- Gee, Emma, "Issei Women" in *Counterpoint* edited by Emmy Gee (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976), 359-364. ®
- Kim, Hyun-chan, editor, *The Korean Diaspora* (Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 1977), 9-63. ®
- Kim, Lili M., "Redefining the Boundaries of Traditional Gender Roles" in *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women*, ed. Shirley Hune and Gail M. Nomura (New York: New York Press, 2003), 106-119. ®

WEEK 6

T 10.11 **Capitalist Demands and Colonial Impact**
Film – *Bontoc Eulogy*

R 10.13 **Capitalist Demands and Colonial Impact – Q 5**

Readings:

- Fujita-Rony, Dorothy, *American Workers, Colonial Power* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 25-49; 79-115. ®
- Pido, Antonio J. A., *The Pilipinos in America* (New York: Center for Migration Studies, 1986), 39-53; 64-72. ®
- Leonard, Karen Isaksen, *The South Asian Americans* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1997), 1-65. ®

WEEK 7

T 10.18 **Narrating the Immigrant Experience**
Film – *A Dollar A Day, Ten Cents A Dance*

EXAM 1 DUE

R 10.20 **Narrating the Immigrant Experience – Q 6**

Readings:

- *America is in the Heart*

WEEK 8

T 10.25 **Asian Americans and Working Class History**

R 10.27 **Asian Americans and Working Class History – Q 7**

Readings:

- *Pau Hana*

WEEK 9

T 11.1 **Asian Americans and Working Class History**

R11.3 **Asian Americans and Working Class History – Q 8**

Readings:

- *Organizing Asian American Labor*

WEEK 10

T 11.8 **Asian Americans and Working Class History**
Film – *Dirty Laundry*

R 11.10 **Asian Americans and Working Class History – Q 9**

Readings:

- *China Men*

LEGITIMACY AND CITIZENSHIP

WEEK 11

T 11.15 **Exclusions and Racial Violence**

EXAM 2 - DUE

R 11.17 **Exclusions and Racial Violence – Q 10**

Readings:

- Chan, Sucheng, "The Exclusion of Chinese Women" in *Entry Denied*, ed. By Sucheng Chan (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991), 94-146. ®
- Hill, Herbert, "Anti-Oriental Agitation and the Rise of Working-Class Racism" in *Society* 10:2 (Jan/Feb 1973): 43-54. ®
- Chen, Jack, *The Chinese of America* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1980), 127-177. ®

WEEK 12

T 11.22 **Exclusions and Racial Violence – Q 11**

R 11.24 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

Readings:

- Ichioka, Yuji, *The Issei* (New York: The Free Press, 1988), 176-254. ®
- Saniel, J.M., editor, *The Filipino Exclusion Movement 127-1035* (Quezon City: Institute of Asian Studies, 1967), 3-39. ®
- Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar, " 'White Trash' Meets 'Little Brown Monkeys'" in *Amerasia* 24:2 (1998): 115-134. ®

WEEK 13

T 11.29 **Incarceration and the Discourse of National Security**

R 12.1 **Incarceration and the Discourse of National Security – Q 12**
Film – *History and Memory*

Readings:

- Chan, Sucheng, *Asian Americans* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1991), 121-142. ®
- Matsumoto, Valerie, "Japanese American Women During WWII" in *Asian American Women*, eds Linda Vo, et al (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 35-54. ®
- Odo, Franklin, *No Sword to Bury* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 181-251. ®

WEEK 14

T 12.6 **Legal Discourse in Naturalization and Denaturalization**

R 12.15 **Legal Discourse in Naturalization and Denaturalization – Q 13**

Readings:

- Kim, Hyun-chan, ed., *Asian Americans and the Supreme Court* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1992), 403-424. ®
- Kim, Hyun-chan, ed., *Asian Americans and Congress* (London: Greenwood Press, 1996), 1-11; 309-328. ®
- Lowe, Lisa, *Immigrant Acts* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1996), 1-36. ®

SPACE: A DISCOURSE OF REGULATION AND OF COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL BELONGING

WEEK 15

T 12.13 **Chinatowns**

R 12.15 **Chinatowns**

EXAM 3 - DUE

Readings:

- Shah, Nayan, *Contagious Divides* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), 1-104. ®
- Chan, Sucheng, *Asian Americans* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1991), 63-78. ®
- Louie, Andrea. Chineseness Across Borders, 39-65. ®

Thursday, December 22 – FINAL PAPER DUE