

# **Asian American Community Building and Social Change**

Asian American Studies 540

Spring 2019

Lecture Time: Tuesday; 8:50am – 10:45am

Location: Ingraham Hall 115

Professor: Cindy I-Fen Cheng

Office Hours: Tuesday 12pm – 2pm and by appointment; 306 Ingraham Hall

E-mail: [CICHENG@wisc.edu](mailto:CICHENG@wisc.edu)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

This capstone course equips you with tools to effect social change. Its focus on applied learning will embolden you to examine key social concerns with the goal of generating effective responses for the advancement of a socially just society. You will analyze some popular case studies to assess the different ways in which school administrators, student organizations, and the public have addressed concerns such as microaggression and cultural appropriation on college campuses. Together with your classmates, you will select a pressing social concern and design an action plan that recognizes both the limits of your approach as well as its possibilities for meaningful social transformation.

## **ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENT**

Asian American Studies 540 is proud to be a part of the University's vibrant course array that fulfills the Ethnic Studies Requirement. By illuminating the circumstances, conditions, and experiences of racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S., this "e" designated course advances three goals of the University:

- 1) Better prepare students for life and careers in an increasingly multicultural U.S. environment
- 2) Add breadth and depth to the University curriculum
- 3) Improve the campus climate

## ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Asian American Studies 540 fulfills the Asian American Studies Certificate Program requirements. The 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 who has an interest in Asian American Studies. Please contact Nhung Nguyen ([ntnguyen22@wisc.edu](mailto:ntnguyen22@wisc.edu)) if you are interested.

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

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The credit standard for this 3-credit course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of student engagement with the course's learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit or 9 hours per week), which include regularly scheduled meeting times (group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week), reading, writing, individual consultations with the instructor, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

Discussion Attendance and Participation	30%	300 points
2-page Response Papers [4 write-ups; 50 points each]	20%	200 points
Organizing for Social Change – Group Action Project	50%	500 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

## COURSE POINT BREAKDOWN

Letter Grade	Point Range	Percentage Range
A	925 to 1000	92.5% and higher
AB	875 to 924	87.5% to 92.4%
B	825 to 874	82.5% to 87.4%
BC	775 to 824	77.5% to 82.4%
C	695 to 774	69.5% to 77.4%
D	595 to 694	59.5% to 69.4%
F	594 and below	59.4% and below

## **COURSE POLICIES**

Technology-Free Learning Environment: In order to foster a learning environment free of distractions, this is a technology-free class. Your laptops and phones must be stowed away from plain sight. Please also make sure that your phones are on silent mode. You can take notes the “old-school way,” using a pencil or pen and a notebook.

Attendance: Regular and prompt attendance, active participation, and mature attentiveness during seminar meetings are mandatory.

Readings: Please complete all required readings before Tuesday’s seminar meeting each week. Please bring your readings to each discussion section.

Honesty: <https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/> Please read the university policy on academic integrity. All information borrowed from print sources or the web must be clearly identified and properly credited. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating on written assignments will result in an “F” grade for the assignment and the course.

Abilities: Any student who feels that they may need special accommodation due to a disability should 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.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- **COURSE READER** ® is available for purchase at the University Book Store located at 711 State Street: <http://www.uwbookstore.com/>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction

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T 2.22

WEEK 2: Microaggression and the University

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### Readings:

- "UCLA Alexander Wallace Apologizes to Campus' Asians," *ABC News*, March 19, 2011. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/uclas-alexandra-wallace-apologizes-campus-asian-culture/story?id=13174245>
- "Alexandra Wallace, UCLA Student, Apologizes for anti-Asian Rant Video," *Huffpost*, March 15, 2011. [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/03/15/alexandra-wallace-receive\\_n\\_835949.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/03/15/alexandra-wallace-receive_n_835949.html) [**Please watch Chancellors Block's video statement at the bottom of the article**]
- "UCLA student's YouTube Video 'Asians in the Library' prompts death threats; violent responses criticized as equally damaging," *Daily Bruin*, March 14, 2011. [http://dailybruin.com/2011/03/14/ucla\\_student039s\\_youtube\\_video\\_039asians\\_in\\_the\\_library039\\_prompts\\_death\\_threats\\_violent\\_responses\\_c/](http://dailybruin.com/2011/03/14/ucla_student039s_youtube_video_039asians_in_the_library039_prompts_death_threats_violent_responses_c/)
- "UCLA community should respond to viral offensive YouTube clip with civility," *Daily Bruin*, March 14, 2011. [http://dailybruin.com/2011/03/14/ucla\\_community\\_should\\_respond\\_to\\_viral\\_offensive\\_youtube\\_clip\\_with\\_civility/](http://dailybruin.com/2011/03/14/ucla_community_should_respond_to_viral_offensive_youtube_clip_with_civility/)
- Jimmy Wong, "Ching Chong! Asians in the Library Song (Response to UCLA's Alexandra Wallace)," *YouTube*, March 15, 2011. **Please watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuEMWj3sVA>
- "UCLA will take action against Alexandra Wallace," *Daily Bruin*, March 18, 2011. [https://dailybruin.com/2011/03/18/ucla\\_will\\_not\\_take\\_action\\_against\\_alexandra\\_walla ce/](https://dailybruin.com/2011/03/18/ucla_will_not_take_action_against_alexandra_walla ce/)
- "Alexandra Wallace apologizes, announces she will no longer attend UCLA," *Daily Bruin*, March 18, 2011. [https://dailybruin.com/2011/03/18/alexandra\\_wallace\\_apologizes\\_announces\\_she\\_will\\_no\\_longer\\_attend\\_ucla/](https://dailybruin.com/2011/03/18/alexandra_wallace_apologizes_announces_she_will_no_longer_attend_ucla/)

- "Proposed GE requirement can help address climate issues," *Daily Bruin*, April 26, 2012. [https://dailybruin.com/2012/04/26/\\_proposed\\_ge\\_requirement\\_can\\_help\\_address\\_campus\\_climate\\_issues/](https://dailybruin.com/2012/04/26/_proposed_ge_requirement_can_help_address_campus_climate_issues/)
- "'Am I overreacting?' Understanding and Combating Microaggressions," *Higher Education Today*, July 27, 2016.
- "Colleges are Defining 'Microaggressions' Really Broadly," *New York Magazine*, September 8, 2016.
- "Examples of Microaggressions," UMN School of Public Health.
- "The Rise of 'Bias Response Teams' on Campus," *The New Republic*, March 30, 2016.
- "The Cult of Fragility on College Campuses," *Investor's Business Daily*, September 13, 2018.

WEEK 3: Cultural Appropriation and the University

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Readings:

- "UCI Asian-American fraternity blackface video, surfaces, sparks outrage," *KPCC*, April 25, 2013. <https://www.scpr.org/blogs/news/2013/04/25/13453/uci-asian-american-fraternity-s-blackface-video-su/>
- "Oh Hell No: Blackface in Asian American Fraternity Video," *Angry Asian Man*, April 25, 2013. <http://blog.angryasianman.com/2013/04/oh-hell-no-blackface-in-asian-american.html>
- "Blackface Video Sparks Anger at UCI," *LA Times*, April 25, 2013. <https://www.latimes.com/tn-dpt-0426-uci-fraternity-blackface-video-20130425-story.html>
- Patrick Chen, "Anti-Blackness at UC Irvine," *Facebook*, April 24, 2013. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/patrick-chen/anti-blackness-at-uc-irvine-possible-trigger-warning/10151408843695922>
- "The Official UC Black Student Union Statement – Please Circulate!," *Tumblr*. <http://thespeakingspook.tumblr.com/post/48941617005>
- UC Irvine Asian-American Fraternity Members Produce Blackface Music Video," *OC Weekly*, April 26, 2013. <https://ocweekly.com/updated-with-chancellor-response-and-investigation-uc-irvine-asian-american-fraternity-members-produce-blackface-music-video-6443929/>
- "Despite Apologies from Racist Frat, UC Irvine Black Students Stick to Demands," *Feminist Wire*, May 3, 2013. <https://thefeministwire.com/2013/05/despite-apologies-from-racist-frat-uc-irvine-black-students-stick-to-demands/>

- "UCI Fraternity Suspends Itself After Blackface Incident," *NIOT*, May 20, 2013.  
<https://www.niot.org/blog/uci-fraternity-suspends-itself-after-blackface-incident>
- Not a Very PC Thing to Say," *The Daily Intelligencer*, January 27, 2015.
- "The real danger of political correctness," *The Washington Post*, July 30, 2015.
- "Political Correctness: The Tyranny of 'PC Culture' is Real – and a Threat to Liberal Society," *Medium*, June 22, 2017.
- "You can only protect campus speech if you acknowledge racism," *The Washington Post*, May 25, 2018.
- Paul Lauter, " 'Political Correctness' and the Attack on American Colleges," *The Radical Teacher* 44 (Winter 2003): 34-40.

WEEK 4:      What is Social Justice?

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Readings:

- "A Short History of Thurgood Marshall College," UCSD.  
<http://provost.ucsd.edu/marshall/40th/history/short-history.html>
- "What's in a Name? The Long Saga of Third College," UCSD Alumni.  
<http://ucsdmag.ucsd.edu/magazine/vol7no2/features/feat4.htm>
- "Lumumba-Zapata College: B.S.C.-M.A.Y.A. demands for the Third College, U.C.S.D.," March 14, 1969.
- "Who is Gender JUST," Gender JUST, 2015.
- "About Freedom Inc.," Freedom Inc., 2017.
- "Comite Familias," 1987-88.
- "The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles," 1989.
- "Central American Refugee Committee," 1990-91.
- Jennifer Ceema Samimi, "Funding America's Nonprofits: The Nonprofit Industrial Complex's Hold on Social Justice," *Columbia Social Work Review* 1 (2010): 17-25.

WEEK 5: Race Talk

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T 2.19 Response Paper 2 - DUE

Readings:

- Derald Wing Sue, *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence* (New Jersey: Wiley), 2015; Chapters 1-3, Chapter 8, Chapter 10, Chapter 13.

WEEK 6: Organizing for Social Change

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Readings:

- Kim Bobo, Jackie Kendall, and Steve Max. *Organizing for Social Change* (Midwest Academy), 1991; Chapters 2-7.

WEEK 7: Choosing Our Issues

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Readings:

- Janice Mirikitani, "Why is Preparing Fish a Political Act?"
- Audre Lorde, *Uses of the Erotic* (Tucson: Kore Press), 1984.

WEEK 8: Self Reflection

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T 3.12 Response Paper 3 – DUE

Readings:

- bell hooks, *Sisters of the Yam* (Boston: South End Press), 1993; Chapters 1-4, Chapter 6, Chapters 9-11.

WEEK 9: **SPRING BREAK ☺**

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WEEK 10: Presentation of Issue

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WEEK 11: Group meeting

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T 4.2

WEEK 12: Crit Session

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T 4.9

WEEK 13: Group Meeting

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T 4.16

WEEK 14: Presentation of Action Plans

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T 4.23

WEEK 15: Asian Sweet Bakery Party!

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T 4.30 Response Paper 4 - DUE