
ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: PROCESSES OF MOVEMENT AND DISLOCATION

History 160/Asian American Studies 160

Fall Semester 2010

2650 Humanities; TR 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Professor: **Cindy I-Fen Cheng**
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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. 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, the study of “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 nations. As we will explore this semester, the increased frequency of movement among Asian immigrants between the U.S. and other countries has transformed the national identity of the American into a *transnational* articulation of belonging.

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) to discuss their study plans and to file a Certificate Declaration form.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Discussion Attendance and Participation	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 1 (5-7 pages)	15%	150 points
Exam 1	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 2 (7 pages)	20%	200 points
Final Exam 2	25%	250 points
Extra Credit		30 points
1. Three Unannounced quizzes (5 points each for a total of 15 points)		
2. One write-up (15 points)		

TOTAL:	100%	1000 points
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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.

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.

Writing Assignments, and Examinations: 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 and assignments.

Honesty: Please read the university policy on plagiarism. All information borrowed from print sources or the web 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 teaching assistant during office hours and by appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. COURSE READER® is available at Bob’s Copy Shop located at 616 University Avenue.
2. Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2008). You can purchase a copy of this book at Rainbow Bookstore located at 426 W. Gilman Street: www.rainbowbookstore.org

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

FILMS:

- *Picture Bride*
- *Dollar a Day, Ten Cents a Dance*
- *Women Outside*
- *aka Don Bonus*

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: Introduction

T 9.7
R 9.9

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. ®

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

T 9.14
R 9.16

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

T 9.21

R 9.23

Readings:

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

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

T 9.28

R 9.30 Film: *Picture Bride*

Readings:

- Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "Careers in Domestic Service" in *Issei, Nisei, War Bride* (Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1986), 99-140. ®

WEEK 5: Defining America through the Chinese Exclusion Movement

T 10.5

R 10.7

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. ®

WEEK 6: Implications of Exclusion

T 10.12 **Critical Analysis Paper #1 DUE**

R 10.14

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. ®

WEEK 7: Making Asians as Undesirable Aliens

T 10.19
R 10.21

Readings:

- Yuji Ichioka, "Struggle Against Exclusion," in *The Issei* (New York: Free Press, 1990), 176-243. ®
- Bill Ong Hing, "The Undesirable Asian" in *Defining American Through Immigration Policy* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 28-50. ®

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

T 10.26 **EXAM 1**
R 10.28

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

T 11.2 Film: *Dollar A Day, Ten Cents A Dance*
R 11.4

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. ®

WEEK 10: Legacies of War and Colonization

T 11.9
R 11.11 Film: *Women on the Outside*

Readings:

- William Liu, *Transition to Nowhere* (Nashville: Charter House, 1979), 11-91. ®

WEEK 11: The Southeast Asian War and Refugees

T 11.16
R 11.18

Readings:

- Dennis Gallagher, "United States and the Indochinese Refugees" in *Indochinese Refugees* (Bangkok: Institute of Asian Studies, 1988), 230-248. ®
- Jeremy Hein, "American Communist Containment in Southeast Asia" in *From Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1994), 11-25. ®
- 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 12: The Southeast Asian War and Refugees

T 11.23 Guest Lecturer: MaiGer Moua
R 11.25 **Happy Thanksgiving ☺**

Readings:

- Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latehomecomer*, 1-128.

WEEK 13: The Southeast Asian War and Refugees

T 11.30 **Critical Analysis Paper #2 – Part I DUE**
Film: aka Don Bonus
R 12.2

Readings:

- Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latehomecomer*, 129-274.

WEEK 14: Rise of the Global Political Economy; Transnationality

T 12.7 **Critical Analysis Paper #2 – Part II DUE**
R 12.9

Readings:

- Catherine Ceniza Choy, *Empire of Care* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), 61-118. ®
- Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, "Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers and then International Division of Labor" *Gender and Society* 14:4 (August 2000): 560-580. ®

WEEK 15:

T 12.14 Final Review Session
R 12.16

Final Examination: Friday, December 17, 2010; 10:05 am – 12:05 pm