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# ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: PROCESSES OF MOVEMENT AND DISLOCATION

History 221/Asian American Studies 240

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Fall Semester 2006

1651 Humanities; MWF 1:20-2:10 pm

**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. thus 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, “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 nation-states. These linkages, moreover, alter the meaning of the “American.” As we will explore this semester, the increased frequency of movement among Asian immigrants between the U.S. and other countries has challenged and transformed the national identity of the American into a *transnational* articulation of belonging.

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

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Unannounced Quizzes	5%	50 points
Discussion Attendance and Participation	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 1 (5-7 pages)	15%	150 points
Exam 1	15%	150 points
Critical Analysis Paper 2 (7 pages)	20%	200 points
Final Exam 2 (Comprehensive)	25%	250 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

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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](mailto: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 at the Humanities Copy Center located at 1650 Humanities; Hours: 7:45 - 11:45am, 12:30 - 4:10pm; Phone: 263-3718 or 263-1803

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

## **FILMS:**

- *A Dollar A Day and Ten Cents a Dance*
- *The Chinatown Files*
- *Dirty Laundry*
- *Bontoc Eulogy*
- *Women Outside*
- *Global Cities*

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

### WEEK 1: Introduction – Unpacking Key Concepts and Terms

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M	9.4	Labor Day
W	9.6	
F	9.8	

#### Readings:

- Daniel J. Tichenor, “Overview of Major U.S. Immigration Legislation” in *Dividing Lines* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002), 3-5.
- Chris Barker, “Capitalism” and “Ethnicity, Race and Nation” in *Cultural Studies* (London: Sage Publications, 2000), 13-14; 193-201.
- Bill Ong Hing, “The Western European New World and the New Americans” in *Defining American Through Immigration Policy* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 11-27.
- Alejandro Portes and Ruben G. Rumbaut, “Introduction: Who They Are and Why They Come” in *Immigrant America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), 1-27.

### WEEK 2: The Spectacle of the Orient in U.S. Cultural Imagination

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M	9.11	
W	9.13	
F	9.15	

#### Readings:

- John Tchen, *New York Before Chinatown* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999), xv—24; 63-153.

### WEEK 3: Growth of U. S. Industries and Markets: Mining, Railroads, and Prostitution

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M	9.18	
W	9.20	
F	9.22	

#### Readings:

- Jack Chen, *The Chinese of America* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1980), 3-77.
- Lucie Cheng Hirata, “Free, Indentured, Enslaved” *Signs* 5:1 (Autumn, 1979), 3-29.

### WEEK 4: Plantation Economy in Hawaii

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M	9.25	
W	9.27	
F	9.29	Film: <i>A Dollar A Day and Ten Cents a Dance</i>

#### Readings:

- Yuji Ichioka, *The Issei* (New York: The Free Press, 1988), 7-90.
- Emma Gee, “Issei Women” in *Counterpoint* edited by Emma Gee (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976), 359-364.
- Hyun-chan Kim, ed., *The Korean Diaspora* (Santa Barbara: ABC Clío, 1977), 9-45.
- Miriam Sharma, “Labor Migration and Class Formation Among the Filipinos in Hawaii, 1906-1946” 579-610.

**WEEK 5: Anti-Asian Sentiments and the Exclusion Movement**

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M 10.2  
W 10.4  
F 10.6

## 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), 127-177.
- Alexander Saxton, "The Indispensable Enemy" in *Counterpoint* edited by Emma Gee (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976), 181-189
- Yuji Ichioka, *The Issei* (New York: The Free Press, 1988), 176-254.

**WEEK 6: Immigration Legislations and U.S. National Policies**

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M 10.9 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER # I DUE**; Film: *The Chinatown Files*  
W 10.11  
F 10.13

## Readings:

- Daniel J. Tichenor, "The Politics of Immigration Control" in *Dividing Lines* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002), 16-45.
- Bill Ong Hing, "The Undesirable Asian" and "The 1952 Act" in *Defining American Through Immigration Policy* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 28-92.

**WEEK 7: Sojourners, Prostitutes, and Bachelor Societies**

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M 10.16  
W 10.18 Film: *Dirty Laundry*  
F 10.20

## Readings:

- Sucheng Chan, "European and Asian Immigration into the United States in Comparative Perspective, 1820s to 1920s" 37-67.
- Franklin Ng, "The Sojourner, Return Migration, and Immigration History" in *The History and Immigration of Asian Americans*, edited by Franklin Ng (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1998), 87-105.
- Nayan Shah, "Perversity, Contamination, and the Dangers of Queer Domesticity" in *Contagious Divides* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001) 77-104.
- Jennifer Ting, "Bachelor Society: Deviant Heterosexuality and Asian American Historiography" in *Privileging Positions* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1995), 271-279.

**WEEK 8: Illicit Migrations**

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M 10.23 **EXAM I**  
W 10.25  
F 10.27

## Readings:

- Mai Ngai, *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 17-90.
- Erika Lee, "The Crooked Path" in *At America's Gate* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 189-243.

**WEEK 9: Legacies of War and Colonization**

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M 10.30 Film: *Bontoc Eulogy*  
W 11.1  
F 11.3

## Readings:

- Dorothy Fujita-Rony, "Empire and Migration" in *American Workers, Colonial Power* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 25-50.
- Yen Le Espiritu, "Filipino Settlements in the United States" in *Filipino American Lives* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1995) 1-19.
- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 93-126.

**WEEK 10: Legacies of War and Colonization**

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M 11.6  
W 11.8  
F 11.10 Film: *Women Outside*

## 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.
- Ji-Yeon Yuh, *Beyond the Shadow of Camp Towns* (New York: New York University Press, 2002), 1-83.
- Christina Klein, "Family Ties and Political Obligation" in *Cold War Constructions*, ed. Christian Appy (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 2000), 35-66.
- Eleana Kim, "Wedding, Citizenship and Culture" *Social Text* 12:1 (Spring 2003): 57-81.

**WEEK 11: Legacies of War and Colonization**

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M 11.13  
W 11.15  
F 11.17

## Readings:

- Paul James Rutledge, *The Vietnamese Experience in America* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992), 1-57.
- Sucheng Chan, *Survivors: Cambodian Refugees in the United States* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2004), 39-80.
- Jeremy Hein, "Hmong" in *Ethnic Origins* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 60-75.

**WEEK 12: Legacies of War and Colonization**

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M 11.20  
W 11.22 **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Lecture**  
F 11.24 **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Lecture**

## Readings:

- Bill Ong Hing, "Shaping Vietnamese American Community" in *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993), 121-138.
- Ruben G. Rumbaut, "Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian Americans" in *Contemporary Asian Americans*, eds. Min Zhou and James Gatewood (New York: New York University Press, 2000), 175-206.
- Mai Ngai, *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 175-201.

**WEEK 13: Global Political Economy**

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M 11.27 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART I DUE**  
W 11.29  
F 12.1

Readings:

- Paul Ong and John Liu, “U.S. Immigration Policies and Asian Migration” in *The New Asian Immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring*, eds. Paul Ong, Edna Bonacich, and Lucie Cheng (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994), 45-73.
- John Liu and Lucie Cheng, “Pacific Rim Development and the Duality of post-1965 Asian Immigration to the U.S.” in *The New Asian Immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring*, eds. Paul Ong, Edna Bonacich, and Lucie Cheng (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994), 74-99.
- Aihwa Ong, “Flexible Citizenship Among Chinese Cosmopolitans” in *Cosmopolitics*, eds. Pheng Cheah and Bruce Robbins (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998), 134-162.
- Arif Dirlik, “Asians on the Rim” in *Across the Pacific*, ed. Evelyn DeHart (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1999), 29-60.

**WEEK 14: Global Political Economy**

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M 12.4 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART II DUE**  
W 12.6  
F 12.8 Film: *Global Cities*

Readings:

- Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, “Asian Immigration Women and Global Restructuring, 1970s-1990s” in *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women*, eds. Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura (New York: New York University Press, 2003), 271-285.
- Peter Liebhold and Harry R. Rubenstein, “The El Monte Sweatshop” in *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance, 1999), 63-79.
- Laura Ho, Catherine Powell, and Leti Volpp, “(Dis)assembling Rights of Women Workers Along the Global Assembly Line” *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* 31 (1996):383-414.
- Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, “Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers and then International Division of Labor” *Gender and Society* 14:4 (August 2000):560-580.

**WEEK 15: Diaspora and Transnationality**

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M 12.11  
W 12.13  
F 12.15

Readings:

- Sandhya Shukla, *India Abroad* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003), 1-77.

**Final Examination: Thursday, December 21, 2006**