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# ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: SETTLEMENT AND NATIONAL BELONGING

History 221/Asian American Studies 240

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Spring Semester 2007  
1131 Humanities; TR 1-2:15 am

**Professor: Cindy I-Fen Cheng**  
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## 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 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 comprising one's Americanness.

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:

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)	25%	250 points
Exam 2 – Final Examination	20%	200 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 for purchase at Bob's Copy Shop located at 616 University Ave; For hours and contact info visit their website: [www.bobscopyshop.com](http://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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T 1.23  
R 1.25

**WEEK 2: Theories on Belonging**

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T 1.30  
R 2.1

Readings:

- "Together or Apart? Some Competing Views" in *Racial and Ethnic Relations in America*, 20-40.
- Eileen H. Tamura, "Americanization Fever" in *Americanization, Acculturation, and Ethnic Identity*, 45-69.

**WEEK 3: Legal Definitions of Citizenship**

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T 2.6 Film: Who Killed Vincent Chin  
R 2.8

Readings:

- Devon W. Carbado, "Racial Naturalization" *American Quarterly* 57:3 (2005):633-658.
- Siobhan B. Somerville, "Notes toward a Queer History of Naturalization" *American Quarterly* 57:3 (2005):659-675.
- Gretchen Ritter, "Gender and Citizenship after the Nineteenth Amendment" *Polity* 32:3 (200):345-375.

**WEEK 4: Legal Definitions of Citizenship**

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T 2.13  
R 2.15

Readings:

- United States v Bhagat Singh Thind, 1922.
- Elizabeth Hull, "Naturalization and Denaturalization" in *Asian Americans and the Supreme Court*, 403-424.
- Hyung-chan Kim, "American Naturalization and Immigration Policy: Asian American Perspective" in *Asian Americans and Congress*, 1-11.
- Neil Gotanda, "Towards Repeal of Asian Exclusion" in *Asian Americans and Congress*, 309-328.

**WEEK 5: Legal Definitions of Citizenship and Japanese American Internment**

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T 2.20

R 2.22 Film: History and Memory

Readings:

- Ronald Takaki, "The Myth of 'Military Necessity for Japanese-American Internment'" in *Strangers From A Different Shore*, 379-405.
- Mae Ngai, "The WW II Internment of Japanese Americans and the Citizenship Renunciation Cases" in *Impossible Subjects*, 175-201.

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**WEEK 6: Race and Place**

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

Readings:

- Kay J. Anderson, "The Idea of Chinatown" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 77:4 (1987):580-598.
- Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides*, 1-103.

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**WEEK 7: Race and Place: Chinatown**

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T 3.6  
R 3.8

Readings:

- "Hells Half Acre," *Los Angeles Times*, 14 April 1882; "America's Chinese" in *Life Magazine*, 8 January 1951; "Chinatown Changing as Suburbs Call Residents," *Los Angeles Times*, 26 October 1959.
- Timothy Fong, *The First Suburban Chinatown*, 15-72.

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**WEEK 8: Race and Place: Ethnic Enclaves**

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T 3.13 Exam One  
R 3.15

Readings:

- Steve Gold, "Chinese-Vietnamese Entrepreneurs in California" in *The New Asian immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring*, 196-226.
- Michelle deGuzman Magalong, "The Search for 'P-town'" *Critical Planning* (Summer 2003):5-18.
- Little Tokyo Anti-Eviction Task Force, "Redevelopment in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo" in *Counterpoint*, 327-333.

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

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

Readings:

- Martin F. Manalansan IV, " 'Out There' " in *Global Divas*, 62-88.
- Andrea Louie, "Identities Fixed in Places" in *Chineseness Across Borders*, 39-65.
- Aihwa Ong, "The Pacific Shuttle" in *Flexible Citizenship*, 110-136.

**WEEK 10: Race and Place: Watts, Koreatown, and South Central**

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T 3.27  
R 3.29 Film: Sa-I-Gu

Readings:

- Staff of the Los Angeles Times, *Understanding the Riots*, 6-65.
- Melvin L. Oliver, James Johnson, and Walter Farrell, "Anatomy of a Rebellion" in *Reading Rodney King*, 117-141.
- Sumi Cho, "Korean Americans vs. African Americans" in *Reading Rodney King*, 196-211.
- Paul Ong, Kye Young Park, and Yasmin Tong, "The Korean-Black Conflict and the State" in *The New Asian Immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring*, 264-194.

**WEEK 11: Spring Break**

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T 4.3 No Lecture Meeting  
R 4.6 No Lecture Meeting

**WEEK 12: Institutional Belonging**

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T 4.10  
R 4.12

Readings:

- Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*, 3-46.
- Various newspaper and magazine clippings.
- Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation" in *The State of Asian America*, 19-69.

**WEEK 13: Institutional Belonging**

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T 4.17 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART I DUE**  
R 4.19

Readings:

- Mike Murase, "Ethnic Studies and Higher Education for Asian Americans" in *Counterpoint*, 205-223.
- Karen Umemoto, "'On Strike!'" in *Contemporary Asian America*, 49-79.
- Ye Le Espiritu, *Asian American Panethnicity*, 19-81.
- Leland Saito and John Horton, "The New Chinese Immigration and the Rise of Asian American Politics in Monterey Park, California" in *The New Asian Immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring*, 233-263.

**WEEK 14: Popular Culture**

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T 4.24 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART II DUE**; Film: Slaying the Dragon  
R 4.26

Readings:

- Elaine Kim, "Asian Americans and American Popular Culture" in *Dictionary of Asian American History*, 99-114.
- Sunaina Marr Maira, *Desis in the House*, 29-82.

**WEEK 15: Popular Culture**

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

Readings:

- Ronald Takaki, "From a Different Shore, in *Contemporary Asian America*, 117-131.
- Shirley Hune, "Doing Gender with a Feminist Gaze" in *Contemporary Asian America*, 413-443.
- Nayan Shah, "Sexuality, Identity, and the Uses of History" in *Q&A*, 141-156.

**WEEK 16: Popular Culture**

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T 5.8  
R 5.10 Final Review Session

Readings:

- Maxine Hong Kingston, *China Men*, 3-5.
- Mitsuye Yamada, "Warning" in *Making More Waves*, 89.
- Meena Alexander, *Faultlines*, 1-4.
- Evelyn Lee and Gloria Oberst, "My Mother's Purple Dress" in *Making Waves*, 99-115.
- Carlos Bulosan, *America is in the Heart*, 119-167.

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