

## Ethnic Studies 20: Introduction to Asian American Studies

Fall 2009

(Tues. & Thurs. @ 9:30am-10:50am in Center 212)

Instructor: Ma Vang

Office: SSB 250

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Office Hours: Wed. @ 1:30-3:00pm in SSB 250

Thur. @ 11:30-1:00pm in CCC

### Course Description

This course investigates the relationship between racial knowledge and power. It is designed to contextualize key issues in Asian American lives in our examination of the Asian American figure as an important nexus of the above relationship. In doing so, we employ a transnational/global perspective to analyze Asian immigration and Asian American racial formation and consciousness. This course aims to complicate the linear narrative of Asian immigration and assimilation, ideas about a homogeneous community, and the model minority myth. Furthermore, the course contends that foregrounding the concepts of race, gender, class, and sexuality in our examination of the key issues concerning Asian Americans allows us to de-center the role of the nation-state in Asian American Studies.

In this course, we will engage with a variety of scholarly, literary, and visual texts to contextualize our critical understanding of Asian American lives. Together, we will explore questions of nation, citizenship, family, US imperialism, refugee, and queerness that have been shaped by various social, political, and cultural factors but also examine how Asian American communities shape their ways of belonging.

<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b>	<b>Section Day/Time</b>	<b>Section Day/Time</b>	<b>Office Hours &amp; Location</b>
Thea Tagle <a href="mailto:ttagle@ucsd.edu">ttagle@ucsd.edu</a>	A03: W 1-1:50 York 3000A	A04: W 2-2:50 York 3000A	
Rashne Limki <a href="mailto:rlimki@ucsd.edu">rlimki@ucsd.edu</a>	A01: Thu 2-2:50 York 3000A	A02: Thu 3-3:50 York 3000A	

### Required Texts

- Jean Yu-Wen Shen Wu and Min Song, editors, *Asian American Studies: A Reader* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2000).
- E-reserves

### Requirements

- Discussion Sections 25%
- Lecture Quizzes 10%
- Essay 20%
- Midterm 20%
- Final 25%

Discussion Sections: Sections are worth 25% of your grade for the course. Your Teaching Assistant will have a point breakdown of what this entails. These sections are designed to give you a space to engage with the course materials in depth with your peers. Attending sections regularly will enhance your understanding of the materials and your success in the course.

Lecture Quizzes: Quizzes will be given in lecture to evaluate your knowledge and understanding of materials presented in lecture. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Essay: The essay will ask you to engage critically with the course materials.

Midterm: In-class on week 5

Final: In-class

### Reading and Lecture Schedule

#### **Sept. 24: Introduction**

#### **Week 1 (Sept. 29 & Oct. 1): Introduction to Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies**

- Michael Omi and Howard Winant, "On the Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race" 199-208 (**Reader**)
- Yen Le Espiritu, "Coming Together: The Asian American Movement," 19-52 (**E-Reserves**)
- Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s" 164-198 (**Reader**)

#### **Week 2 (Oct. 6 & 8): Contradictions in Asian Immigration**

- Lisa Lowe, "Immigration, Citizenship, Racialization: Asian American Critique," 1-36 (**E-Reserves**)
- Mae Ngai, "The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 and the Reconstruction of Race in Immigration Law," 21-55 (**E-Reserves**)
- Robert Chang, "Why We Need a Critical Asian American Legal Studies" 363-378 (**Reader**)

#### **Week 3 (Oct. 13 & 15): Racial Knowledge**

- Laura Kang, "Introduction," 1-28 (**E-Reserves**)
- Mae Ngai, "The World War II Internment of Japanese Americans and the Citizenship Renunciation Cases," 175-201 (**E-Reserves**)
- C.B. Munson (The Munson Report), "Japanese on the West Coast" 84-92 (**Reader**)
- Hisaye Yamamoto, "The Legend of Miss Sasagawara" 124-134 (**Reader**)

#### **Week 4 (Oct. 20 & 22): Toward a Transnational/Global Approach**

- Yen Le Espiritu, "Home Making," 1-22 (**E-Reserves**)

- Elaine H. Kim and Lisa Lowe, “Guest Editor’s Introduction,” v-xiii **(E-Reserves)**
- Masao Miyoshi, “A Borderless World? From Colonialism to Transnationalism and the Decline of the Nation-state” 209-231 **(Reader)**
- E. San Juan Jr., “In Search of Filipino Writing: Reclaiming Whose ‘America’?” 443-466 **(Reader)**

#### **Week 5 (Oct. 27 & 29): Post-1965 Immigration and Critical Views of “Asian America”**

- Eithne Luibheid, “The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act: An ‘End’ to Exclusion?” 501-522 **(E-Reserves)**
- Nazli Kibria, “Not Asian, Black, or White? Reflections on South Asian American Racial Identity” 247-254 **(Reader)**
- Elaine H. Kim, “Home Is Where the Han Is: A Korean-American Perspective on the Los Angeles Upheavals” 270-289 **(Reader)**
- Oscar V. Campomanes, “Filipinos in the United States and Their Literature of Exile,” **(E-Reserves)**

#### **Week 6 (Nov. 3 & 5): The Refugee Figure**

- Khatharya Um, “The ‘Vietnam War’: What’s in a Name?” 134-139 **(E-Reserves)**
- Linda Trinh Vo, “The Vietnamese American Experience: From Dispersion to the Development of Post-Refugee Communities” 290-306 **(Reader)**
- Yen Le Espiritu, “Toward a Critical Refugee Study: The Vietnamese Refugee Subject in U.S. Scholarship,” 410-433 **(E-Reserves)**
- Minh Duc Nguyen, “Tale of Apricot” 505-515 **(Reader)**

#### **Week 7 (Nov. 10 & 12): “Model Minorities and Probationary Americans”**

- U.S. News and World Report, “Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S.” **(Reader)**
- Lisa Park, “Continuing Significance of the Model Minority Myth: The Second Generation” **(E-Reserves)**
- Edward J.W. Park and John S.W. Park, “Engineering the Model Minority” and “Probationary Americans,” 97-114 **(E-Reserves)**
- Vijay Prashad, “Of the Origin of Desis and Some Principles of State Selection,” 69-84 **(E-Reserves)**
- Keith Osajima, “Asian Americans as the Model Minority: An Analysis of the Popular Press Image in the 1960s and 1980s,” **(E-Reserves)**

#### **Week 8 (Nov. 17 & 19): Queering Asian America**

- Richard Fung, “Looking for My Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn” 338-353 **(Reader)**
- Martin Manalansan, “To Play with the World: The Pageantry of Identities,” 126-151 **(E-Reserves)**
- R. Zamora Linmark, “Three Stories” 516-524 **(Reader)**
- David Eng, “Out Here and Over There: Queerness and Diaspora in Asian American Studies,” **(E-Reserves)**

**Week 9 (Nov. 24 & Thanksgiving): Catch up and Review**

**Week 10 (Dec. 1 & 3): Contending with Representations**

- Jasbir K. Puar, "Conclusion: Queer Times, Terrorist Assemblages," 203-222 (**E-Reserves**)
- Sylvia Shin Huey Chong, "'Look, an Asian!': The Politics of Racial Interpellation in the Wake of the Virginia Tech Shootings," 27-60 (**E-Reserves**)
- Bao Phi, "For Us," 76-9 (**E-Reserves**)

**Final: Thursday, December 10, 2009 @ 8-11am**

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of "interest" yet have no information about the major or minor and don't realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).