

DIASPORA, RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE U.S. ASIAN AMERICANS

This course introduces the history and contemporary experience of Asian immigrants to the United States. Through historical studies, documentary and feature films, essays, memoirs and ethnographies we will learn about groups from different parts of East, Southeast and South Asia. Moving between the personal, the national and the global, we look at their different migration stories and at their common conditions as minorities in the multicultural, racially divided United States. This semester we will especially focus on, race, gender/sexuality, violence and media/popular culture, but topics also include: migration history, transnationalism and pan-Asianism, citizenship and exclusion, class and discrimination, family and generation, social conflict and activism.

Required readings: The following two books will be available at the Douglass and downtown bookstores, and on reserve at the Douglass library. Other readings will be available on sakai. Readings are due on the day they are listed on the syllabus. Those listed as AASN are in the reader; those with full references are on sakai.

--Liu, Eric. 1998. *The Accidental Asian*. New York: Vintage.

--Jean Yu-Wen Shen Wu and Thomas C. Chen. 2010. *Asian American Studies Now*. Rutgers University Press.

Requirements. Based on a 100-point scale, there will be two quizzes (20 points each), a 3-4 p. film/memoir assignment (12 points), and student research and/or creative projects accompanied by reports to be presented at the end of the semester (24 points). Class attendance and participation is a major component of the course (24 points).

Class meetings: This is a discussion-based class. Expect to come to class prepared to discuss the material, both films and readings, raise questions and respond to others. Listen to your classmates as well as to the professor. Please do not bring in any other reading, such as newspapers, or conduct conversations during class. Cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices should be turned off. It is disruptive to check or send messages during class. Please do not leave class while it is in session unless you have a personal emergency. We will always take a break midway through.

Films: The documentary and feature films are central material for the class and should be taken as seriously as the readings. All films will be on the quizzes and you should take notes as you watch. Some films will be viewed on reserve and some in class; if you have a personal emergency and miss the film, or if you would like to review it, you may view it on reserve for one week *after* the screening at the Douglass media library. Call 2-9411x6 for availability. Films required for viewing on your own can be viewed at a library group screening immediately before class on Tuesdays, with the start time as listed below, or screened at Douglass Media library on your own schedule.

Class communications: You are responsible for checking sakai to receive vital class announcements, especially on Sun-Mon. before class meets. Assignments and information about quizzes will also be distributed here.

Academic integrity. No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. All work, unless you are directed to do teamwork, must be your own. Any borrowing of others' work or ideas, whether published or not, is unacceptable unless fully credited. Students are encouraged to read the full policy on academic integrity at the following website: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Course Objectives:

- to give students a grasp of American race, ethnicity, immigration, and citizenship issues
- to introduce students to Asian American studies disciplines and establish a baseline of knowledge
- to give students an awareness of the diversity of Asian American groups and their experiences
- to develop students' proficiency in thinking and speaking critically and clearly about race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender issues

- to develop students' ability to write cogently and to articulate arguments systematically
- to encourage students to integrate issues of US multiethnicity into their thinking about their future lives and work, including considering many forms of action and intervention

1/17 - Overview

Film: *The Escapades of One Particular Mr. Noodle*, Fresh Looks Cassette 2, 1993, 2-2818, 10 mins.

Film: *Sewing Woman*, 1982, D-328, 14 mins.

1/24 – Immigrations

--Liu, Eric. 1998. *The Accidental Asian*. New York: Vintage: Pp. 3-84.

--Chan, Sucheng. "The International Context of Asian Emigration." In *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History*. 1991. Boston: Twayne Publishers. Pp. 3-24.

Film (reserve, screening Tu 11:15 AM): *Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors and Settlers* 1996, 2-5605, 64 mins.

Film (in class): *Dollar a Day, Ten Cents a Dance: A Historic Portrait of Filipino Farmworkers in America*, 1995, 2-7397, 29 mins.

1/31 – National and Global Perspectives

--Okiihiro, Gary Y. "When and Where I Enter." (AASN)

--Liu (continued): Pp. 85-144.

--Hu-DeHart, Evelyn. "Introduction: Asian American Formations in the Age of Globalization." In *Across the Pacific: Asian Americans and Globalization*. 1999. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pp. 1-29.

Film (in class): *Carved in Silence*, 1987, 2-3913, 45 mins.

2/7 – Race, Colorblindness, Exclusions

--Liu (continued): Pp. 144-203

--Winant, Howard. "Racism: From Domination to Hegemony." (AASN)

--Lee, Erika. "The Chinese are Coming. How Can We Stop Them? Chinese Exclusion and the Origins of American Gatekeeping." (AASN)

--Espiritu, Yen Le. "Homes, Borders and Possibilities." (AASN)

Film (reserve, screening Tu 11 AM): *Rabbit in the Moon*, 2001, 2-6412, 85 mins.

Film (in class): *Slaughtered in Hugo*, 2002, 2-2367, 29 mins.

Film (in class): *Blue Collar and Buddha*, 1996, 2-3995, 57 mins.

2/14 – History, Identity, Model Minority

--Weglyn, Michi Nishiura. "The Secret Munson Report." (AASN)

--Lee, Robert G. "The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority Myth." (AASN)

--Omi, Michael and Dana Takagi. "Situating Asians in the Political Discourse on Affirmative Action." (AASN)

--Ancheta, Angelo N. "Neither Black nor White." (AASN)

Film (reserve, screening Tu 11:15 AM): *Ancestors in the Americas: Chinese in the Frontier West*, 1998, 2-5070, 60 mins.

Film (in class): *Roots in the Sand* 1998, 2-5446, 57 mins

2/21 – Women and Children as Migrants: Adoption, Labor, Marriage

--Yuh, Ji-Yeon. "Out of the Shadows: Camptown Women, Military Brides, and Korean (American) Communities." (AASN)

--Dorow, Sara. "Why China? Identifying Histories of Transnational Adoption." (AASN)

--Nelson, Kim Park. 2007. "Adoptees as 'White' Koreans: Identity, Racial Visibility and the Politics of Passing Among Korean Adoptees." In *Proceedings of the First International Korean Adoption Studies Research Symposium*. edited by Kim Park Nelson, Eleana Kim, and Lene Myong Petersen. Pp. 195-213. International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA), Seoul, South Korea.

--Parrenas, Rhacel. "Asian Immigrant Women and Global Restructuring, 1970s-1990s." (AASN)

Film (reserve, screening Tu 11:15 AM): *First Person Plural* 2000, 10-722, 60 mins

Film (in class): *The Women Outside* 1995, 2-6676, 52 mins

2/28 – Raced Violence

--Fong, Timothy P. 2002. "Anti-Asian Violence: Breaking the Silence." In *The Contemporary Asian American Experience: Beyond the Model Minority*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Pp. 151-187.

--Kim, Elaine "Home is Where the *Han* Is: A Korean American Perspective on the Los Angeles Upheavals." (AASN)

--Schein, Louisa and Va-Megn Thoj. 2007. "Occult Racism: The Masking of Race in the Hmong Hunter Incident." *American Quarterly* 59(4): 1051-1095.

Film (reserve, screening Tu 11 AM): *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* 1988, 2-903, 82 mins.

Film (in class): *Sa I Gu*, 1995, 2-7362, 42 mins.

Film (in class): *Flight*, 15 mins.

3/6 – South Asians and 9/11

QUIZ # 1

--Maira, Sunaina. "Youth Culture, Citizenship, and Globalization: South Asian Muslim Youth in the United States After September 11th." (AASN)

Film (in class): *A Dream in Doubt*, 2007, 10-1331, 57 mins.

3/20 –Sexualities and Media

--Lee, Robert G. 1999. "The Third Sex." In *Orientalisms: Asian Americans in Popular Culture*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, pp. 83-105.

--Shimizu, Parrenas Celine and Helen Lee. 2004. "Sex Acts: Two Meditations on Race and Sexuality." *Signs* 30(1): 1386-1402.

--Fung, Richard. 1991. "Looking for my Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn. In *How Do I Look?: Queer Film and Video*. Bad Object Choices, ed. Pp. 145-168. Seattle: Bay Press

Film (reserve, screening Tu 10:30 AM): *Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay*, 2008, 10-1324, 107 mins

Film (in class): *Picturing Oriental Girls*, 1995, 2-6956, 12 mins

Film (in class): *Slaying the Dragon, Reloaded*, 2011, 30 mins.

3/27 - Masculinities

--Vang, Burlee. 2006. "A Red Spoon for the Nameless." In *Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers*. Matt Kellogg and Jillian Quint, eds. Pp. 197-202. New York: Random House.

--Alumit, Noel. 2009. "The Rice Room: Scenes from a Bar." In *Embodying Asian/American Sexualities*. Pp. 23-27. Lanham MD: Lexington Books.

--Schein and Vang, "Gran Torino's Hmong Lead Bee Vang on Film, Race and Masculinity: Conversations with Louisa Schein, Spring, 2010." *Hmong Studies Journal* 11.

--Schein and Thoj, "Beyond *Gran Torino*'s Guns: Hmong Cultural Warriors Performing Genders," Forthcoming, *Positions*

Chang, Jason. 2001. "The Truth About Gay Asian Men." *Model Minority (Feb-March)*:

http://modelminority.com/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=152:the-truth-about-gay-asian-men-&catid=37:dating&Itemid=56

Film (reserve, screening Tu 10:30 AM): *Gran Torino*, 2008, 10-1551, 116 mins.

4/3 – Students' Work

Project Presentations

Attend the Undergraduate Asian American Studies Symposium 2:30 to 7:30 pm in the Plangere Writing Center (3rd floor of Murray Hall)

4/10 – Activism: Solidarities and Fractures

Film Assignment Due in class

Student Project Presentations

--Matsuda, Mari. "We Will Not be Used: Are Asian Americans the Racial Bourgeoisie?" (AASN)

--Zia, Helen. "Detroit Blues: Because of You Motherfuckers." (AASN)

--Prashad, Vijay. "Crafting Solidarities." (AASN)

4/17 – Health, Activism and Immigrants as Agents

Visit of Filmmaker Va-Megn Thoj to present selections from Shamans, Herbs and MDs

-- Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York : Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. Selections

--Chiu, Monica. "Medical, Racist and Colonial Constructions of Power in Anne Fadiman's *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*." (AASN)

Film: *Better Places: Hmong of Rhode Island a Generation Later* 2011

4/24 – Communities in Formation

Student Project Presentations

--Manalansan, Martin F. IV. "Searching for Community: Filipino Gay Men in New York City." (AASN)

--Dirlik, Arif. "Asians on the Rim: Transnational Capital and Local Community in the Making of Contemporary Asian America." (AASN)

FINAL EXAM May 3, 12-1:30 PM: QUIZ #2

1:30-3 Student Project Presentations

Project Topics (Others to be approved, all topics must be decided upon in consultation with me):

Occupy Movement

Hate speech and crimes

Asians in military/Asian suicides in military (Danny Chen)

Dhurum Ravi

Virginia Tech

Gran Torino/Blind Side

Films:

Film: *Sentenced Home*, 2006, 10-1177, 76 mins.

Film: *Lest We Forget*, 2003, 2-7713, 57 mins.

Film: *Refugee*, 2003, 2176, 63 mins.

Film: *Kelly Loves Tony*, 1998, 2-7707, 57 mins.

Film: *The Split Horn*, 2001, 2-7711, 58 mins.

Film: *Blue Collar and Buddha*, 1996 2-3995, 57 mins.

Film: *Better Luck Tomorrow*, 2003, 2-6600, 99 mins.

Film: *Mississippi Masala*, 1992, 2-5001, 117 mins.

Film: *Year of the Dragon*, 1988, 2-5004, 136 mins.

Film: *The Wedding Banquet*, 1994, 473 (Dana), 108 mins.

Film: *Namesake*, 2006, 10-1399, 122 mins.

Film: *Saving Face*, 2005, 10-1832, 98 mins.

Film: *Picture Bride*, 1995, 2-5014 95 mins.

Film: *Closer to Home* 2004 10-1640 125 mins.

Film: *History and Memory:(For Akiko and Takashige)*, 1991/2008, 10-1851, 32 mins.

Film: *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* 2010, 10-2199, 62 mins.

Film: *A Village Called Versailles*, 2009, 10-1820, 67 mins.

Film: *Thousand Pieces of Gold* 1992, 2-7853, 105 mins.

Film: *Catfish in Black Bean Sauce*, 2001, 119 mins., 10-1597

Film: *Daughter from Danang*, 2003, 10-356, 83 mins.

Film: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, 2000, 128 mins., 10-101

Film: *Come See the Paradise*, 1991, 2-5003, 135 mins.

Film: *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*, 2008, 10-1891, 90 mins.