Instructor: Yuki Obayashi
Class: TTh 9:00 am – 12:30 pm @ Hum & Soc Sci 250
Office Hours: TTh 1:00 – 2:00 pm and by appointment
Office: Hum 1 Room 341
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CRES 115
Asian American Studies: Histories and Theories

This course offers to explore the heterogeneous experiences and histories that have shaped Asian America. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach to history, politics, literature, and film, the class explores historical and contemporary issues critical to the Asian American experience. Throughout the course, we will examine what defines and constitutes Asian American Studies and how this field has shifted during the fifty years since it first emerged. Collectively, we will examine issues of immigration, citizenship, identity formation, cultural representations, imperialism, and militarism. With a focus on Asian American studies, this course enables students to think critically, theoretically, and comparatively about a core field within critical race and ethnic studies.

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:
   (Available for purchase at Bay Tree Bookstore and accessible through two-hour reserve at McHenry Library)
2. All other texts are available as PDFs and are posted on Canvas.
3. Films for home viewing are accessible through Google Drive links via Canvas Pages.

COURSE GOALS:
- To develop an in-depth understanding of Asian American Studies through interdisciplinary approaches to history, politics, literature, cultural studies, feminist studies and critical race studies.
- To examine how history and laws have shaped today’s Asian American experiences.
- To examine Asian American Studies through various theoretical (transnational, diasporic, critical race) lenses to gain a greater understanding of the topics covered in the class.
- To develop critical insight into readings both in class discussion, group presentations, and written assignments.

REQUIREMENTS:
1. PARTICIPATION: Attendance is crucial for this class. While in class, you are expected to participate by raising questions, analyzing course materials, and engaging in discussion. You are expected to read the assigned texts beforehand in order to fully engage in class. **You will automatically fail the class if you miss two classes.**
2. **BLOG POSTINGS:** On Canvas Discussions, you are asked to post your critical questions and/or analysis related to the assigned course materials in a paragraph or two three times. On the first day of class, you are assigned to one of four groups (A, B, and C), which determine your due dates.
   Group A: 6/27, 7/9 or 7/11, 7/18
   Group B: 7/2, 7/11, 7/23
   Group C: 7/9, 7/16, 7/25
   You must post at least 12 hours prior to the next class.

3. **SHORT RESPONSE PAPERS:** During this five-week session, students are asked to submit 2-page response papers twice. These response papers are based on topics discussed in class. Topics and due dates are as follows:
   7/16: History of Exclusions and Discrimination (discussed on 7/2 and 9)
   7/23: Asian American Stereotypes: Yellow Peril and Model Minority (discussed on 7/16)
   You can discuss more than the assigned materials in your response paper, but this is not required. You are welcome to quote from class lectures and your classmates’ opinions yet if you do so, you must cite the source. You must email your response paper to me by 9 am before class starts (July 16 and 23). Late submission will not be accepted.

4. **GROUP PRESENTATION:** Each group will be given 15 minutes to present on one of the assigned topics. You should discuss at least one assigned reading but are welcome to introduce materials not covered in class. The assigned topics are:
   7/9  Japanese American Redress Movement
   7/11  The 1965 Immigrant Act
   7/16  Model Minority Myth
   7/18  Vincent Chin
   7/23  LA Riots
   7/25  Islamophobia

5. **FINAL PAPER:** Students may choose any topic covered in class. You can expand your short response papers. You may cite texts not discussed in class, but doing so is not required. The length of the final paper is 5-7 pages. You must email your final paper to me by Sunday, July 28. Late submissions will not be accepted.

6. **WRITING STYLE:** For writing assignments, the students are asked to use the MLA writing style. If you are not familiar with the MLA style, please consult *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th edition). If you feel that another writing style (ex. Chicago Style) is more beneficial for your study, please come to ask the instructor.
GRADING:
Participation 20%
Blog Postings (3) 15%
Short Response Papers (2) 30%
Group Presentation 10%
Final Paper 25%

CLASS POLICIES:
1. COMMUNICATION: You can come to my office hours (or by appointment if necessary) to discuss response papers or anything about the class. Please check your UCSC email account regularly because I will use email as the main communication tool outside the classroom. I will respond to you within 24 hours’ time.
2. NO LATE WORK: I will not accept any late work. If an emergency occurs, please email me immediately. If you have difficulty submitting assignments because of disabilities, please follow the classroom accommodation instructions below and be sure to talk to me in advance.
3. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Copying, paraphrasing, and pasting from another source or borrowing somebody’s idea without citation counts as plagiarism. Any violations of the above-mentioned academic integrity will be reported to the university. Please further details on academic integrity at http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity.
4. RESPECT: Respecting each other is crucial for creating and sustaining an active and healthy academic community for everyone. We will have different perspectives and opinions on some issues, however, please respect each other when you disagree with your classmates’ opinions. By accepting the different opinions of each other we will have a class space where students can freely open their minds within a diverse academic community.
5. ELECTRONIC DEVICES: In class, you are allowed to use a laptop only for notetaking and accessing assigned PDF materials. You are not allowed to use a smartphone for any reason.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you qualify for classroom accommodation because of a disability, please get Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person within the first two weeks of the quarter. Please contact DRC at 831-459-2089 (voice), 831-459-4806 (TTY), or http://drc.ucsc.edu for further information on the requirement and/or process.

TITLE IX:
Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support
and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office by calling 831-502-2273. You can also access confidential, counseling support at Counseling & Psychological Services (831-459-2628). To report gender discrimination, you can call the University’s Title IX Office (831-459-2462). Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD (831-459-2231, ext. 1). For emergencies, call 911.

SCHEDULE

(All reading and viewing materials are available on CANVAS. The schedule is subject to change with a notification.)

**What is Asian American Studies?**


In-Class Viewing: Activist State. directed by Jonathan Craig. 2009. (26 min.)

**Early Asian Immigration to the United States**

**6/27: Day 2 (Angel Island, Manong, Picture Brides)**


Home Viewing: Picture Bride. directed by Kayo Hatta. 1995. (100 min.)

**History of Exclusions and Discrimination**

**7/2: Day 3 (Chinese Exclusion Act, Gentlemen’s Agreement, The 1924 Immigration Act)**

Home Viewing: Carved in Silence. directed by Felicia Lowe. 1987. (45 min.)


7/4: No Class (Independence Day)

7/9: Day 4 (Japanese American Mass Incarceration and Redress Movement)

In-Class Viewing: *History and Memory: For Akiko and Takashige*. directed by Rea Tajiri. 1991. (33 min.)

“*We Are Here Because You Were There*”: U.S. Empire in Asia During the Cold War
7/11: Day 5 (The 1965 Immigrant Act, Refugees, Korean War, Vietnam War)
lè thi diem thu’y. “Shu-Topl.” *Gangster We All Are Looking For*. 2003, pp. 3-35.

Asian American Stereotypes: Yellow Peril and Model Minority
7/16: Day 6 (Fu Manchu, Charlie Chan, Geisha Girl, Model Minority Myth, Perpetual Foreigners)
Home Viewing: *Sayonara*. directed by Joshua Logan. 1957. (147 min.)

Asian American Coalitions Against Racist Violence
7/18: Day 7 (Vincent Chin, “Panethnicity”)


7/23: Day 8 (LA Riots)


Home Viewing: Gook. directed by Justin Chon. 2017 (95 min.)

In-class Viewing: Sa-I-Gu: From Korean Women’s Perspectives. directed by Christine Choy and Dai Sil Kim-Gibson. 1993. (36 min.)

9/11 and the Trump Era

7/25: Day 9 (Islamophobia, Closing)


Home Viewing: Big Head. performed by Denise Uyehara. 2011. (41 min)


In-class Viewing: “From the Japanese American Internment to 9/11 – John Tateishi.” (4 min.)