
ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: SETTLEMENT AND NATIONAL BELONGING

Asian American Studies/History 161

Humanities 1121
MF 2:30-3:45

Spring Semester 2010

Professor: **Cindy I-Fen Cheng**
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will explore in this course the process of becoming an American. Understanding this process is important because being an American works to secure certain rights as well as access to society's resources such as schools, financial aid, social security, bank loans, and medical benefits. Our ideas about who counts as an American also influences the kinds of stories we tell, the movies we make, and the histories we write. For many, being an American creates and provides a sense of legitimacy and belonging within a nation-state. It is a means of identifying oneself along with the set of values governing national belonging.

This course develops how the government's management of the immigration and naturalization of Asian Americans, *more than any other group*, established the legal terms on how one becomes an American. It also examines how the settlement patterns of Asian Americans, how they are situated in society, shed light into the differential meanings of citizenship and national belonging. This course further explores the ways in which the struggle over what gets taught at the universities and in particular, the battle waged to include Asian American Studies within the academy worked to create a sense of legitimacy for Asian Americans. Lastly, this course

examines popular movies and music as important mediums where ideas about the place of Asian Americans in society get played out and contested.

While this course concentrates on the activities and cases involving Asian Americans, it uses these happenings as a window into the complicated and uneven processes of becoming an American, issues that impact and influence all groups in the U.S. and beyond. The emphasis on Asian Americans unearths concerns such as: Do our political beliefs impact our sense of legitimacy in the U.S.? How does nationality, race, class, gender, and sexuality mediate a group's sense of belonging in the U.S.? What impact does the political relationship between the U.S. and other countries have on groups in the U.S. associated with these countries? The study of Asian Americans aims to deepen, enrich, and enliven our discussions on these important issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

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

Unannounced Quizzes	5%	50 points
Discussion Attendance and Participation	20%	200 points
Critical Analysis Paper 1 (3-4 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
TOTAL:	100%	1000 points

COURSE POLICIES:

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, of the graduate instructors, as well as of the professor. We need to all work together to create an environment that fosters critical thinking and respect for different ways of thinking.

Each student is *warmly* encouraged to meet with the professor and the graduate instructors during office hours and by appointment.

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 and lecture notes will not be posted on the course webpage.

Readings: Students are expected to complete each week's required readings before Monday's lecture. You need to bring your notes and a copy of the assigned readings for the week to each discussion section.

Discussion Sections: You will NOT pass this course even if you do all the written work and exams 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. 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. No incompletes will be granted for the course except in cases of personal emergencies subject to the discretion of the professor and the valid documentation of the emergency. 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 and/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 the professor. 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 to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- COURSE READER®
- John Okada, *No No Boy* (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1979).
- Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (New York: Crossing Press, 1982).

The Course Reader® is available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center located at 1650 Humanities Building.

- Hours: M-F 7:45 - 11:45 am 12:30 - 4:00 pm
- Phone: 263-1803 or 263-3718

No No Boy and *Zami* are available for purchase at Rainbow Bookstore located at 426 W. Gilman Street.

- Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun noon - 5 pm
- Phone: 257-6050

A copy of all the required texts is available on reserve at the College Library.

FILMS:

- Who Killed Vincent Chin
- Fear and Learning at Hoover Elementary
- aka Don Bonus
- Fall of the I-Hotel
- Sa-I-Gu
- San Francisco State: On Strike
- Slaying the Dragon
- Forbidden City, USA
- Grace Lee Project

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: Introduction

F 1.22

WEEK 2: Theories on Belonging

M 1.25

F 1.29

Readings:

- "Together of Apart? Some Competing Views" in *Racial and Ethnic Relations in America*, 20-40. ®
- Devon W. Carbado, "Racial Naturalization" *American Quarterly* 57:3 (2005):633-658. ®

WEEK 3: Setting the Terms of Citizenship : The Case of Wong Kim Ark

M 2.1 Film: Who Killed Vincent Chin

F 2.5

Readings:

- Mitchell Young, "Establishing Citizenship Rights for Children of Immigrants" in *Immigration: Issues on Trial* (Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2008), 20-53. ®
- Charles McClain, "Torturous Path, Elusive Goal: The Asian Quest for American Citizenship" *Asian Law Journal* 2:33 (1995): 33-41. ®
- Leti Volpp, "'Obnoxious to Their Very Nature'" *Asian Law Journal* 8:71 (2001): 71-87. ®

WEEK 4: Racial Qualifications for Citizenship: Ozawa and Thind

M 2.8

F 2.12

Readings:

- *United States v Bhagat Singh Thind*, 1922. ®
- Yuji Ichioka, "The Struggle Against Exclusion: Quest for Naturalization Rights" in *The Issei* (New York: Free Press, 1988), 210-226. ®
- Ian Haney Lopez, "Ozawa and Thind" in *White By Law* (New York: New York University Press, 1996), 79-109. ®

WEEK 5: U.S. Foreign Relations and National Belongings

M 2.15

F 2.19

Readings:

- Neil Gotanda, "Towards Repeal of Asian Exclusion" in *Asian Americans and Congress*, 309-328. ®
- Mae Ngai, "The WW II Internment of Japanese Americans and the Citizenship Renunciation Cases" in *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 175-201. ®
- Critical Analysis Paper #1 – Reading Packet ®
 - "Old Allies, Tagged 'Terrorist'" *The Washington Post*, 16 December 2006; "Hmong Refugees Now Considered 'Terrorists' Under the Patriot Act" *Associated Press*, 19 February 2007; "Senate Approves Amendment Aimed to Ease Plight of Hmong" *MPR News*, 7 September 2007; "The Wrong Way to End A Secret War" *ATimes*, 13 June 2008.
 - Franklin Ng, "From Laos to America" in *Emerging Voices*, ed. Huping Ling (New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 2008), 17-33.

WEEK 6: A Place for Illegal Immigrants?

M 2.22

CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #1 DUE

Film: Fear and Learning at Hoover Elementary

F 2.26

Readings:

- Mae Ngai, "The Cold War Chinese Immigration Crisis and the Confession Cases" in *Impossible Subjects* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 202-224. ®
- John Okada, *No No Boy*, Chapters 1-5.

WEEK 7: Cultural Citizenship

M 3.1

F 3.5

Readings:

- John Okada, *No No Boy*, Chapters 6-11.

WEEK 8: Ethnic Enclaves

M 3.8 **Exam One**
F 3.12

Readings:

- Sucheng Chan, "The Social Organization of Asian Immigrant Communities" in *Asian Americans: An Interpretative History* (Boston: Twayne Publishing, 1991), 63-78. ®

WEEK 9: Processes of Uprooting and Re-Settling

M 3.15
F 3.19 Film: Fall of the I-Hotel

Readings:

- Timothy Fong, The First Suburban Chinatown, 15-72. ®

WEEK 10:

M 3.22
F 3.26 Film: Sa-I-Gu

Readings:

- Melvin L. Oliver, James Johnson, and Walter Farrell, "Anatomy of a Rebellion" in *Reading Rodney King*, 117-141. ®
- Edward T. Chang "New Urban Crisis" in *Koreans in the Hood*, ed. Kwang Chung Kim (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1999). ®
- Sumi Cho, "Korean Americans vs. African Americans" in *Reading Rodney King*, 196-211. ®

WEEK 11: Spring Break ☺

M 3.29 No Lecture Meeting
F 4.2 No Lecture Meeting

WEEK 12: Crossing Borders; Constructing Homelands

M 4.5

F 4.9

Readings:

- Martin F. Manalansan IV, " 'Out There' " in *Global Divas*, 62-88. ®
- Sandhya Shukla, "New Immigrants, New Forms of Transnational Community: Post-1965 Indian Migrations," *Amerasia Journal* 25:3 (1999/2000):19-36. ®
- Eleana Kim, "Wedding Citizenship and Culture: Korean Adoptees and the Global Family of Korea" *Social Text* 74, 21:1 (Spring 2003): 57-81. ®
- Andrea Louie, "Identities Fixed in Places" and "Welcome Home!(!?) in *Chineseness Across Borders*, 39-91. ®

WEEK 13: Politics of Recognition

M 4.12 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART I DUE**
Film: San Francisco State: On Strike

F 4.16

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. ®
- Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation" in *The State of Asian America*, 19-69. ®

WEEK 14: Representations and Social Belonging

M 4.19 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART II DUE**
Film: Slaying the Dragon; Forbidden City, U.S.A.

F 4.23

Readings:

- Elaine Kim, "Asian Americans and American Popular Culture" in *Dictionary of Asian American History*, 99-114. ®
- Maira Sunaina, *Desis in the House* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002), 29-82. ®

WEEK 15: A New Spelling of My Name

M 4.26 Film: Grace Lee Project

F 4.30

Readings:

- Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (New York: Crossing Press, 1982), Chapters 1-18.

WEEK 16: A New Spelling of My Name

M 5.3

F 5.7 Final Review Session

Readings:

- Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (New York: Crossing Press, 1982), Chapters 18-Epilogue

**Final Examination Monday, May 10, 2010
2:45 – 4:45 pm**