
ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: SETTLEMENT AND NATIONAL BELONGING

Asian American Studies/History 161

Humanities 2650
TR 4 pm - 5:15 pm

Spring Semester 2012

Professor: **Cindy I-Fen Cheng**
Office: 5106 Humanities
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm and by appointment
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|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Graduate Instructors: | Avi Gray | Ashley Cundiff | Chong Moua |
| Office: | Hum 4266 | Hum 4266 | Hum 4266 |
| Office Hours: | Thurs. 1:30 – 3:30pm | Thurs. noon – 2pm | Thurs. 11 – 1pm |
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how the notion that Asians in the U.S. are both a racial minority and a foreigner makes Asian Americans a fascinating subject to study in order to gain a better understanding of the values that mediate national belonging. Throughout this semester, we will develop how the racialization of Asian in the U.S. as the “foreigners-within” crucially unfolds the contradictions and complications of national belonging.

The central questions guiding our study will be: How does racism nullify the belonging of assimilated Asians in the U.S.? Do we really want a “multicultural society” or do we believe that there should be a clear sense of what unifies us as “Americans”? How does one’s class status enhance his/her racial belonging? Is the racial divide always between white/black?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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

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| Discussion Attendance and Participation | 20% | 200 points |
| Critical Analysis Paper 1 (5 pages) | 15% | 150 points |
| Exam 1 | 20% | 200 points |
| Critical Analysis Paper 2 (7 pages) | 20% | 200 points |
| Exam 2 – Final Examination | 25% | 250 points |
| (Extra Credit | 5% | 50 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 Tuesday'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. He/She will provide you with additional guidelines and policies for the discussion section.

Writing Assignments and Examinations: 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).

The Course Reader ® is available at **Bob's Copy Shop** located at **616 University Avenue**.

No No Boy is available for purchase at **Rainbow Bookstore** located at **426 W. Gilman Street**.

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

FILMS

- Who Killed Vincent Chin
- Fall of the I-Hotel
- Sa-I-Gu
- San Francisco State: On Strike
- Slaying the Dragon
- Grace Lee Project

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Introduction

T 1.24
R 1.26

WEEK 2 Race and National Belonging

T 1.31
R 2.1

Readings:

- Devon W. Carbado, "Racial Naturalization" *American Quarterly* 57:3 (2005): 633-658. ®
Also available on our course webpage at Learn@UW

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

T 2.7
R 2.9

Readings:

- Mitchell Young, "Establishing Citizenship Rights for Children of Immigrants" in *Immigration: Issues on Trial* (Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2008), 20-53. ®

WEEK 4 Racial Qualifications for Citizenship: Ozawa and Thind

T 2.14
R 2.16

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 Belonging

T 2.21
R 2.23

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. ®

WEEK 6 U.S. Foreign Relations and National Belonging

T 2.28 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #1 DUE**
Film: Who Killed Vincent Chin?
R 3.1

Readings:

- John Okada, *No No Boy*, Chapters 1-5.

WEEK 7 Cultural Citizenship

T 3.6
R 3.8

Readings:

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

WEEK 8 Ethnic Enclaves

T 3.13 **Exam One**
R 3.15

Readings:

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

WEEK 9 Ethnic Enclaves

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

Readings:

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

WEEK 10 Development of Urban Ghettos

T 3.27
R 3.29

Readings:

- 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. ®

WEEK 11 SPRING BREAK

T 4.3 NO CLASS MEETING
R 4.5 NO CLASS MEETING

WEEK 12 Crossing Borders; Constructing Homelands

T 4.10 Film: Sa-I-Gu
R 4.12

Readings:

- Martin F. Manalansan IV, " 'Out There' " in *Global Divas*, 62-88. ®
- Eleana Kim, "Wedding Citizenship and Culture: Korean Adoptees and the Global Family of Korea" *Social Text* 74, 21:1 (Spring 2003): 57-81. ®

WEEK 13 The Fight for Institutional Belonging

T 4.17 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART I DUE**
 Film: San Francisco State: On Strike
T 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. ®

WEEK 14 Representations and Social Belonging

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. ®

WEEK 15 Race and Popular Culture

T 5.1 Film: Grace Lee Project
R 5.3

Readings:

- Maira Sunaina, *Desis in the House* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002), 29-82. ®

WEEK 16 Wrapping Things Up

T 5.8
R 5.10 Final Review Session

**Final Examination Wednesday, May 16, 2012
7:45 - 9:45 am**