
ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: SETTLEMENT AND NATIONAL BELONGING

Asian American Studies/History 161

Humanities 3650
MW 8am - 9:15am

Spring Semester 2013

Professor:

Office:

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Cindy I-Fen Cheng

5106 Humanities

Wednesday 9:15am – 11:15am and by appointment

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Graduate Instructors:

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Wednesday 10 – noon

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Graduate Writing Specialist:

William Brokaw Noseworthy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how the racial formation of Asian Americans as both racial minorities and “perpetual foreigners” makes Asian Americans a fascinating subject of study to better understand the terms that govern U.S. national belonging. The examination of Asian Americans and U.S. national belonging allows us to consider not only how race regulated who had better and more access to society’s resources than

others; it also allows us to examine how our fear of the foreign and our adherence to assimilationist beliefs dictate the rights and treatment of immigrants.

We will begin our study examining citizenship laws and how race determined historically who could be naturalized as American citizens. In addition to exploring the legal definition of citizenship, we will examine the terms of cultural citizenship where one's conformity to Anglo American culture helped to mediate a sense of belonging in U.S. society. We will examine how the cultural norm of Anglo Americans shaped the curriculums of higher education along with the stories and bodies that popular media featured. We will also explore the activities of those who sought to challenge this norm in hopes of creating a more flexible vision of who and what counts as American.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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

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		30 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 warmly encouraged to share their questions and ideas in lecture and discussion sections. Since there will be different viewpoints and analysis, please respect the comments and positions of your fellow students, graduate instructors, and professor. We all need to work together to create a safe environment that fosters critical thinking and respect for different ways of thinking.

Each student is *warmly* encouraged to meet with the professor and 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 assigned readings before Monday's lecture of each week. Please remember to bring your notes and a copy of the assigned readings 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 graduate instructor has full authority to assign homework, administer quizzes, and require drafts of papers. He/She will provide you with additional guidelines and policies for 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 course schedule and according to university schedule. No incompletes will be granted except in cases of personal emergencies subject to the discretion of the professor and valid documentation of 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 accommodations 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

1. COURSE READER ®
 - The Course Reader is available for purchase at **Bob's Copy Shop** located at **616 University Avenue**.
2. John Okada, *No No Boy* (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1979).
 - *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

W 1.23

WEEK 2 Race and National Belonging

M 1.28

W 1.30

Readings:

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

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

M 2.4

W 2.6

Readings:

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

WEEK 4 Racial Qualification for Citizenship: Ozawa and Thind

M 2.11

W 2.13

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

M 2.18

W 2.20

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

M 2.25 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #1 DUE**
Film: Who Killed Vincent Chin?
W 2.27

Readings:

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

WEEK 7 Cultural Citizenship

M 3.4
W 3.6 **Exam One Review Session**

Readings:

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

WEEK 8 Ethnic Enclaves

M 3.11 **Exam One**
W 3.13

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: The Case of Monterey Park

M 3.18
W 3.20 Film: Fall of the I-Hotel

Readings:

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

WEEK 10 Spring Break ☺

WEEK 11 The Los Angeles Uprising

M 4.1
W 4.3

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 12 Crossing Borders and the Quest for Belonging

M 4.8
W 4.10

Readings:

- Martin F. Manalansan IV, “ ‘Out There’ “ in *Global Divas*, 62-88. ®
- Jen Reck, “Homeless Gay and Transgender Youth of Color in San Francisco” *Journal of LGBT Youth* 6:2-3 (2009): 223-242. ®

WEEK 13 The Fight for Institutional Belonging

M 4.15 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART I DUE**
Film: San Francisco State: On Strike
W 4.17

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 Media Representations and Social Belonging

M 4.22 **CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER #2 – PART II DUE**
Film: Slaying the Dragon
W 4.24

Readings:

- Elaine Kim, “Asian Americans and American Popular Culture” in *Dictionary of Asian American History*, 99-114. ®
- Christine Bacareza Balance, “How It Feels to be Viral Me” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 10:1-2 (2012): 138-152. ®

WEEK 15 Asian American Popular Culture

M 4.29 Film: Grace Lee Project
W 5.1

Readings:

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

WEEK 16 Wrapping Things Up

M 5.6
W 5.8 Final Review Session

Final Examination Friday, May 17, 2013; 7:45am – 9:45am