Ethnic Studies 20: Introduction to Asian American Studies             Fall 2005

Instructor: Yen Le Espiritu
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Office hours: Tuesdays 10-12; Wednesdays 2-3

Course Description

This course takes a critical transnational approach to the study of Asian American lives. We will examine how Asian American experiences have been and are directly linked to U.S.-Asia relations and the global context. Through a variety of texts, both academic and creative, we will delve into the social consequences that are a part of these U.S.-Asia relations and to grasp how even the seemingly most personal relationships are rooted in and shaped by historical and social circumstances. The course pays special attention to the inequalities and differences that arise from older histories of colonialism and racism as well as from new forms of globalization.

Section Information*:

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<th>Sect.</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Room</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<td>A01</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Center 217A</td>
<td>Theo Verinakis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tverinak@ucsd.edu">tverinak@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>SSB 249</td>
<td>M 12-2, T 10:30-11:30</td>
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<td>A02</td>
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<td>WLH 2114</td>
<td>Theo Verinakis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tverinak@ucsd.edu">tverinak@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>SSB 249</td>
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<td>A03</td>
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<td>WLH2006</td>
<td>Benita Brahmbhatt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbrahmbhatt@ucsd.edu">bbrahmbhatt@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>SSB 248</td>
<td>Th. 9-11, W 6-7</td>
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* You must attend the section that you are enrolled in. You will not receive credit for attending a section that you are not enrolled in. Attendance will be taken in section.

Required Texts

- Ethnic Studies 20 Reader sold by University Readers.

All books are available at Groundworks Bookstore, 858.452.9625. Readers are for sale through University Readers, info@universityreaders.com, 1.800.200.3908. University
Readers representatives will bring readers to lecture the first few sessions. The books and the reader will be on reserve in the library.

**Requirements**

1) **Readings:** You should complete the readings for the week by the beginning of each week. Your preparation will help you to get the most out of lectures and section discussions.

2) **Attendance:** Attend both lecture and section.

3) **Assignments:**
   - Assignment #1—Due date: Oct 13 (3rd week)
   - Assignment #2—Due date: Nov 17 (8th week)

4) **Exams:**

**Grading**:  
Section attendance and participation**15 %
Assignment #1: 15 %
Assignment #2: 15%
Midterm 25%
Final 30%

* You must complete all course requirements to pass the course.  
**You must receive a passing grade in section to pass the course. Section grades are based on attendance and participation, and will be assigned by the teaching assistants.

**Reading and Lecture Schedule**

**September 22 – Course Introduction: Asian/America**

**Week 1. Sept. 27 & 29 – Asian American Studies: Epistemological critique & Social Justice.**


Caroline Chung Simpson, “‘Out of an Obscure Place’: Japanese War Brides and Cultural Pluralism in the 1950s.”
Gary Okihiro, “When and Where I Enter.”

Week 3. Oct. 11 & 13 – Global Capitalism and Colonialism
Edna Bonacich, “United States Capitalist Development: A Background to Asian Immigration.”
Catherine Choy, Empire of Care, pp. 1-118.
Sucheta Mazumdar, “Colonial Impact and Punjabi Emigration to the United States.”

Note: Assignment # 1 due Oct. 13

Week 4. Oct. 18 & 20 – U.S. Wars in Asia
John Dower, “War Hates and War Crimes.”
Ji-Yeon Yuh’s Beyond The Shadow of Camptown, pp. 1-83.
Marilyn Young, “Bloodbaths (1968-1971)”

Week 5. Oct 25 & 27 –
Oct. 25—— Midterm
Oct 27– Film

Week 6. Nov. 1 & 3 -- Post-1965 Asian Immigration
Roger Waldinger and Jennifer Lee, “New Immigrants in Urban America.”
Jessica Gurcak et al, “Immigration of Scientists and Engineers to the United States: Issues and Evidence.”
Paula Chakravartty, “The Emigration of Highly-Skilled Indian Workers to the United States: Flexible Citizenship and India’s Information Economy.”
Ruben Rumbaut, “Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian Americans.”

Week 7. Nov. 8 & 10 — Contact Zones: Encountering America
Catherine Choy, Empire of Care, Ch. 5, 121-165.
Ji-Yeon Yuh’s Beyond the Shadow of Camptown, chs. 3-4, pp. 84-153
Aime Phan, We Should Never Meet, pp. 1-112.
Aihwa Ong, “Refugee Medicine: Attracting and Deflecting the Gaze.”

Week 8. Nov. 15 & 17 Making a Life: Family and Community
Ji-Yeon Yuh’s Beyond the Shadow of Camptown, chs. 5-6, pp. 154-221
Aime Phan, We Should Never Meet, pp. 113-243.

Note: November 17: Guest speaker – Aimee Phan
Assignment # 2 due Nov. 17
Week 9. Nov. 22 – Critical Issues Facing Contemporary Asian America
Muneer Ahmad, “Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day after September 11.”
Bill Ong Hing, “Deporting Cambodian Refugees: Justice Denied?”
http://www2.sjsu.edu/depts/sociology/living/ResistHomeSec-web.pdf
Edward Park and John Park, “Toward Limits to Welfare and Family Reunification.”
Edward Park and John Park, “Probationary Americans.”

Week 10. Nov. 29 & Dec 1 – Conclusion: New Lives/New Ways
Catherine Choy, Empire of Care, Ch. 6 and Epilogue, 166-192.
Glenn Omatsu, “The ‘Four Prisons’ and the Movements of Liberation’
Film: “Labor Women” by Renee Tajima Pena. (Portrait of three Asian immigrant daughters who are part of a new generation transforming the American labor movement)

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11:30-2:30

Ethnic Studies Major or Minor at UCSD

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Ethnic Studies at (858) 534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu