Since the Cold War era, over 1.8 million Southeast Asian refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam have entered the United States and remade their lives through and against conditions of war and displacement. This course first examines the conditions that led thousands of people to flee their homes in Southeast Asia and then critically and comparatively examines the ways Southeast Asian refugees have forged new lives and communities in the US. We will focus on both institutional constraints/challenges as well as the strategies deployed by refugees to negotiate their marginal status in the US, particularly paying attention to the creative ways they maintain transnational (often vexed) ties to their homelands.

**Required Texts:**

4. Course Reader – Available on E-Reserve

*The textbook is available for purchase at Groundworks Bookstore (855) 452-9625. The book is also on reserve at the Social Science and Humanities Library.

**Requirements**

1) **Attendance:** It is required that you attend all lectures. Pop quizzes may be given occasionally during lecture. Films and other media shown during lectures will not be made available on reserve.

2) **Readings:** You should complete weekly readings before Tuesday lectures. This will help you get the most out of lectures and be prepared to participate in discussion.

3) **Assignments:** You will have a chance to use your creative skills to complete a creative project of your choice. We will discuss this assignment in greater detail in class. You will also need to conduct a brief oral history interview in order to complete an oral history paper and presentation for the class.

4) **FINAL EXAM:** (take home) Due on Thursday, Dec. 11.

**Grading**

1) Attendance and active class participation 15%

2) Creative Project 20%

3) Oral History Paper 25%

4) Oral History Presentation 10%

5) Final (Take-home) 30%

*You must complete all course requirements in order to pass the course.*
**You must receive a passing grade in section to pass the course. Section grades are assigned by your teaching assistant and will be based on your attendance and active participation in classroom discussion.**

**Lecture Schedule**
*readings should be completed before Tuesday’s lecture each week*

**Readings from the texts are indicated by their titles and those from E-Reserves are designated as (ER)**

**Sept. 25: Introduction to the Course**

**Week 1 (Sept. 30 & Oct. 2): Introduction to Refugees and Immigrants**

*Family Tightrope*, Ch. 1

*Buddha Is Hiding*, Introduction


**Week 2 (Oct. 7 & 9): Refugees and the Nation**

Agamben, Giorgio. “We Refugees.” http://www.egs.edu/faculty/agamben/agamben-we-refugees.html (ER)


**Week 3 (Oct. 14 & 16): The American War/The Vietnam War**


Film Screening: The Killing Fields

**Week 4 (Oct. 21 & 23): Critical Views of War**

*Creative project due on Oct. 23*
Buddha Is Hiding, Part I, pp. 25-65


Week 5 (Oct. 28 & 30): Displacement and Resettlement

Buddha is Hiding, Part II, pp. 69-191.

Film Screening: Monkey Dance

Week 6 (Nov. 4 & 6): Family & Gender Relations

Family Tightrope, Ch. 4 & 5

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, pp. 3-118.


Week 7 (Veterans Day & Nov. 13): Representing Refugees

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, pp. 119-288


Week 8 (Nov. 18 & 20): Refugee Community Formations

*Oral History Paper Due


Film Screening: Saigon, USA

Week 9 (Nov. 25 & Thanksgiving): Cultural Formations
Family Tightrope, Ch. 7.


Week 10 (Dec. 2 & 4): Postmemory in Refugee Communities


Andrew Lam, excerpts from Perfume Dreams.

FINAL (take home) DUE DEC. 11

Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies 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, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.