ASIAN AMERICAN POLITICS
ETHNIC STUDIES 123
Summer Session I
M/W 11:00-1:50PM

Instructor: Lisa Ho
Email: liho@mail.ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2 to 4PM & By Appointment
Office Location: SSB 251

Course Description
This course examines the political organizations, identities, and strategies of the Asian/American community from the late 1800’s to present day. The course uses a historical comparative approach to better understand how the Asian/American community has politically developed itself over time. The course is also concerned with how this development has been formulated through the Asian/American community’s relationship with other communities of color. In response to the advancement of communication technologies and the popularity of social media, the course utilizes different media platforms to present the different issues that impact the Asian/American community such as: labor exploitation, immigration, hate crimes, education, and others. I argue that the use of social media and other forms of communication technology have enable the Asian/American community to produce an alternative narrative of their politicization that contest their racialization within the U.S. nation-state. The objective of this course is to explicate how the Asian/American community has chosen to politicize itself in the past and present moment. In other words, what does it mean to be “political” for Asian/Americans?

Grade Breakdown
4 Response Papers: 20 % (5 Points Each)
Participation: 20%
Attendance: 10%
Final Project: 50%

ASSIGNMENTS
Participation: Since this course has a small amount of students, students will be required to actively participate in class. In order to effectively facilitate individual and class participation, students will be required to submit TWO discussion questions every Sunday @ 5PM to me via email. Questions must be related to the weekly assigned readings. These discussion questions were constitute your participation grade, each set of questions are worth 5 points. If you submit your set of questions on time, you will receive full credit, if not, you will receive a “0.”
Response Papers: Each student is required to complete four 1-2 page response papers every week. Response papers will be turned in EVERY Wednesday except for WEEK ONE. For these response papers, students must critically respond to the assigned texts which can be done in a number of ways:
1) What is the overall theme of the assigned readings?
2) What connections can be made to current or historical events?
3) What is the intervention of these texts?
4) What is not being addressed in these works?

However, students will NOT receive any credit if they summarize the readings. The response papers are an opportunity for students to actively engage with the texts in a concise and critical manner. Response papers must have proper citation whatever style it is.

Final Project: While the content of the final project must be directly related to the course, students may choose whatever form to present them in. Some of the options that are available to students:
1) research paper, with a topic approved by me
2) curating a YouTube, Facebook, Tumblr, Blogger page on course topics
3) a short film, digital clip
4) a song, poem, painting

This is NOT an exhaustive list, it is simply to help students generate other possible final project ideas. Final projects will be evaluated by how effectively the student engages with course material in a critical manner. Students must gain approval of project ideas from by JULY 9 (Week Two).

Email
Feel free to email me if you have any questions about the readings, assignments, or the course itself. If you want me to respond the same day that you sent you email, please email me before 5pm, if not, I will reply to you the next morning.

Safe Space
At times throughout the course, we will be discussing issues that might be sensitive for some people in the section. Please remember that this course is safe space for students to engage with each other in a respective manner. In class, students should be able to express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas without being attacked by others in the section. If at any time, should you feel uncomfortable in the class, please let me know.
**ALL READINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH TED IN THE “CONTENT” FOLDER**

**WEEK ONE:**

_“Throwing it back”: The Asian American Movement Then + Now_

**MONDAY (6/30)**
1) “Who Studies the Asian American Movement?: A Historiographical Analysis”- Diane C. Fujino

**WEDNESDAY (7/2)**
2) _Black, Brown Yellow and Left: Radical Activism in Los Angeles_- Laura Pulido

Selections: Chapter 3 + 8

**GUEST SPEAKER:**
Mai Yang Vang, California Forward + HIP (HMONG INNOVATING POLITICS)

**WEEK TWO:**

_“It’s definitely going to be a hot summer”: Exploiting Laboring + Immigrant Bodies_

**MONDAY (7/7)**
1) _Cane Fires: The Anti-Japanese Movement in Hawaii, 1865-1945_ (Okihro, Gary Y.)
   Selections: Preface, Chapter 1 + 3
   (article on Theft Wage Act)

**WEDNESDAY (7/9)**
1) “We Make the Spring Rolls, They Make Their Own Rules: Filipina Domestic Worker’s Fight For Labor Rights in the New York City and Los Angeles”- Rotramel, Ariella
2) “An Analysis of Latino-Korean Relations in the Workplace: Latino Workplace: Latino Perspectives of the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest” - Park, Kyeyoung
3) _Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States_ - Gupta, Monisha Das
   Selection: Chapter 6 “‘Know Your Place in History’: Labor Organizations”

**GUEST SPEAKER:**
Rebecca Ronquillo, KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Worker’s Alliance)

**WEEK THREE:**

_“It was an accident”: Anti-Asian Violence + Community Organization_

**MONDAY (7/14)**
1) _Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People_ – Helen Zia
   Selection: Chapter 3 “Detroit Blues: ‘Because of You Motherfuckers’”
3) “Playing the Racial Trump Card: Asian Americans in Contemporary Politics” - Claire Jean Kim

GUEST SPEAKER:
Mary Keovisai, National Lao American Community & Development, Inc.

WEDNESDAY (7/16)
1) “Rights at Risk: South Asians in the Post-9/11 United States” - Sangay Mishra
2) “So Our History Doesn’t Become Your Future: The Local and Global Politics of Coalition Building Post September 11th” - Nadine C. Naber

WEEK FOUR:
REPRESENTING: Formal Political Engagement of Asian/Asian Americans

MONDAY (7/21)
1) The Making of Asian America through Political Participation, Pei-te Lien
Selection: Chapter 1, “Charting a Hidden Terrain: Historical Struggles for Inclusion and Justice Prior to the Era of Civil Rights and Electoral Politics”
2) Asian American Politics: Law, Participation, and Policy, Edited By: Don T. Nakanishi and James S. Lai
Selection: “Transcending the Bamboo and Glass Ceilings: Defining the Trajectory to Empower Asian Pacific Islander American Women in Politics” (Elena Ong)

WEDNESDAY (7/23)
1) Asian American Politics: Law, Participation, and Policy, Edited By: Don T. Nakanishi and James S. Lai
Selection: “Wen Ho Lee and the Consequences of Enduring Asian American Stereotypes” (Spencer K. Turnbull)
2) “The Educational Implications of Affirmative Action and Crossing the Color Line” - Mitchell J. Chang
3) “Citizenship at a Cost: Undocumented Asian Youth Perceptions and the Militarization of Immigration” - Trace Lachica Buenavista

Guest Speaker:
Lisa Thong, OCA-Greater Los Angeles + CA State Controller’s Office

WEEK FIVE:
How do I hashtag/meme/Facebook/YouTube this?: Self-Representations of Asian Americans in the Media

MONDAY (7/28)
1) Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics, Lisa Lowe
Selection: Chapter 1, “Immigration, Citizenship, Racialization: Asian American Critique”
2) “How It Feels to Be Viral Me: Affective Labor and Asian American YouTube Performance”-Christine Bacareza Balance
3) http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/2014-06/24/content_17610183.htm (article on Danny Chen opera)

WEDNESDAY (7/30)
NO READINGS 😊
Individual Presentations on Final Projects

GUEST SPEAKER:
Christopher Woon, Filmmaker “Among B-Boys”