Course Description

This course examines representations of Asian Americans in contemporary film and literature, paying close attention to the ways in which the post-1965 immigration transformed the face of Asian America. How has the category “Asian American” been constructed, and by whom? How does the “new” wave of Asian Americans transform existing paradigms of representation for this panethnic category? From “unassimilable alien” to model minority to gangster, Asian Americans have been represented in complex and contradictory ways. This course explores the contradictions within Asian American cultural representations.

Required Texts
1. The Gangster of Love by Jessica Hagedorn
2. Bone by Fae Myenne Ng
3. We Should Never Meet by Aimee Phan
*books are available at Groundwork
4. Course Reader (available at UCSD bookstore)

Course Requirements
1. Attendance and Participation: 15%
2. Weekly response papers: 10%
3. Leading Class Discussion: 10%
4. Final Presentation: 10%
5. Midterm: 25%
6. Final Paper or Project: 30%

Schedule

Week 1: Orientals and Asian Americans


Week 2: The Model Minority Myth

Aug. 9  T.  (screening: Harold and Kumar go to White Castle)
1. Bone, Chapters 1-9

Aug. 11    Th.  1. Bone, Chapters 10-14

Week 3: Hybridity and Difference

Aug. 16    T.  1. We Should Never Meet

Aug. 18    Th.  MIDTERM EXAM
(screening: film TBA)

Week 4: Transnational Movements

Aug. 23    T.  1. The Gangster of Love, pp. 1-197

Aug. 25    Th.  (screening: Mississippi Masala)
1. The Gangster of Love, pp. 198-311

Week 5: Alternative Spaces

Aug. 30    T.  (screening: My America…[or honk of you love Buddha])

Sept. 1    Th.  FINAL PRESENTATIONS (FINAL PAPERS/PROJECTS DUE)