ETHN 126:  
Comparative Filipino and Vietnamese American Identities and Communities  
(UCSD SPRING 2007)

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Office hours: T/Th 12:30 – 2pm (SSB 249)

Required Texts

3. Brian Ascalon Roley. American Son
4. Andrew X. Pham. Catfish and Mandala
5. Ethnic Studies 126 Reader

* All texts are available at Groundworks Book Store.  
* The course reader is available at University Reader Printing Service at www.universityreaders.com or (800) 200-3908/ (858) 552-1120. About 20% of reader material will be made available on-line with proof of purchase.

Course Requirements

1. Active Participation/ Learning: This course will be run on a lecture-discussion basis. The success of the course depends on your active participation. Please see attached handout for examples on how to be active learners.  
(Note: You are required to submit a one-page self-evaluation of your active participation in the class. Due date: Date of final exam.)
2. A.) Analysis of Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) and Kaibigang Pilipino (KP) Cultural Nights  
• Students attend both VSA (April 15) and KP (May 25-26) cultural nights OR view previously recorded cultural nights (if available).  
• Write a brief analysis describing and comparing/ contrasting the two cultural events. (4 pages)  
• Due date: May 31, at the beginning of class.
B.) Film Analysis (5 pages): write a brief analysis describing and comparing/ contrasting three films not shown in class on reserve at Geisel Library. (4 pages). Due date: Thursday, May 17, at the beginning of class.
3. Research Project: “Ghosts and Other Unfinished Conversations.” (10 pages)  
• Please see attached handout.  
• Due Date: Thursday, June 7, at the beginning of class.  
• Presentations in class week 10.
4. Midterm Exam—Short answer and essay questions: May 8

This course is based on Y. Espiritu’s ETHN 189 syllabus (spring 2004).
5. **Final Exam**—Tuesday, June 12, 11:30 to 2:29 pm, short answer and essay questions, emphasizing material from week 6 – 10.

**Grading Scale**
- Class Participation: 15%
- Cultural Night Analysis: 15%
- Research Project: 30%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final: 20%

**Part I. Colonialism, war, and Empire**

Forgetting is a form of death ever present within life...But forgetting is also the great problem of politics. When a big power wants to deprive a small country of its national consciousness it uses the method of organized forgetting...A nation which loses awareness of its past gradually loses itself.

Milan Kundera

**Week 1. Ghostly Violence: U.S. Empire in Southeast Asia**
- Avery Gordon, “Her Shape and His Hand.”
- Amy Kaplan, “Introduction.”
- Amerasia Journal, “Moment of Empire: An Editorial Dialogue” and “Thirty Years AfterWARD: The Endings That Are Not Over”

**Week 2. About History: Hypervisibility and Un-Visibility**
- Yen Espiritu. Home Bound. Ch. 1

**VIDEO: Memories of a Forgotten War**

**NOTE:** VSA Culture Night April 15, location TBA.

**Week 3. A “Seething Presence”: Other Perspectives/ Perspectives of the Others**
- “Letter from General Bell to Apolinario Mabini”
- Apolinario Mabini, “In Response to General Bell.”
- Mark twain. “To the Person Sitting in Darkness.”
- Rene Ontal. “Fagen and Other Ghosts: African Americans and the Philippine-American War.”
- Martin Luther King’s antiwar speeches: [http://www.aayw.org/protest/homepage_king.html](http://www.aayw.org/protest/homepage_king.html)

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Week 4. War and Its Consequences I: When Does War End and Who Gets to Decide?
- Renato Constantino, “The Miseducation of the Filipino.”
- Eric Gamalinda. “English Is Your Mother Tongue/ Ang Ingles Ay and Tongue ng Ina mo.”
- Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy. “Spectre Orange.”
- Sonny Le. “A Vietnam War Survivor Reflects on Iraq”
- Amerasia Journal, Section III.

Week 5. War and Its Consequences II: Dispersal and Displacement
- Cathy Choy. “‘The Usual Subjects’: The Preconditions of Professional Migration”
- Vince Rafael. “Your Grief Is Our Gossip”: Overseas Filipinos and Other Spectral Presences.” In *White Love*
- David Diamond. “One Nation, Overseas: Need (hired) help? Try the Philippines, the forerunner of tomorrow’s distributed economy, supplying nurses, teachers, techies, and sailors to the global village.”
- Kieu Linh Caroline Valverde, “From Dust to Gold: The Vietnamese Amerasian Experience.”
- Nguyen Qui Duc, “The Hairy Hand.” In *Vestiges of War*

Week 6.
May 8 - Midterm
May 10 – Video: Mai’s America

Part II – Home, Culture, and Family

*There is no such thing as a private sphere for people of color except that which they manage to create and protect in an otherwise hostile environment.*  
Aida Hurtado

Week 7. Working to live/ Living to Work
- Neferti Tadiar. “Domestic Bodies of the Philippines.”
- Cathy Choy. “Trial and Error.”
- Yen Espiritu. *Home Bound*. Chs. 4-5

*Note: Film analysis paper option due Thursday, May 17.*

Week 8. For the Love of Family
Week 9. Inventing Culture, Traditions, and Identities
- Amerasia Journal, Section I & II.
- Brian Ascalon Roley. American Son (all)

Note: VSA/ KP Culture Night analysis paper option due Thursday, May 31.

Week 10. Conclusion: Crafting New Selves
- Avery Gordon, “There are Crossroads.”
- Yen Espiritu, Home Bound, Chs. 8-9
- Andrew Pham. Catfish and Mandala (all)

**Research Papers due Thursday, June 7, at the beginning of class.**
**In-class presentation of research Tuesday/ Thursday, June 5/7.**