The internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II has figured as the paradigmatic example of Asian Americans in the twentieth century. In this course, we reassess the centrality of the internment as symbol and anomaly, by situating the event within wider international, national, and regional contexts before and after World War II. This includes the scope of U.S. interests in China, Japan, the Philippines, Korea and other Asian sites, the span of Asian immigration to and settlement in the western U.S., and the wartime relation of Japanese Americans to other Asian immigrants, and to other racial and ethnic groups working in west coast cities like Los Angeles. Our objective is to understand the different international, national, and regional landscapes as crucial contexts for the emergence of the many meanings surrounding “Asia” and “Asians” in the 20th century.

In this interdisciplinary course, we will read, interpret, and analyze a variety of materials, including literary fiction, plays, narrative histories, policy studies, newspapers, magazines, photographs, films, and other primary historical and social scientific materials.

Attendance of lectures is mandatory. Students are expected to complete all assignments by the time of the lecture. Students will write periodic response papers, with the topic distributed in class Friday and the 1-page response papers due the next Monday.

Course requirements:
- Class attendance, response papers 20%
- Midterm paper 40%
- Final paper 40%

Required books for sale at Groundwork Books, and at SSHL Course Reserves:
John Okada, *No-no Boy* (U Washington)
Joy Kogawa, *Obasan* (Doubleday)
Hisaye Yamamoto, *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories* (Rutgers UP)
Kim Ronyoung, *Clay Walls* (U Washington)
Chester Himes, *If He Hollers, Let Him Go* (Thunder’s Mouth)
Luis Valdez, *Zoot Suit* (Arte Publico)
Naomi Hirahara, *Summer of the Big Bachi* (Bantam Dell) (*not at SSHL*)
**Required reader** available at Cal Copy, 3251 Holiday Ct. #103, 452-9949, and on reserve at SSHL Course Reserves:

- John Hersey and Ansel Adams, “A Mistake of Terrifically Horrible Proportions,” from *Manzanar*
- Ronald Takaki, from *Democracy and Race: Asian Americans and World War II*
- W. W. Rostow, from *An American Policy in Asia*
- Henry R. Luce, “The First Great American Century”
- James Thomson, et al., from *Sentimental Imperialists: American Experience in East Asia*
- T. Fujitani, “Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers in U.S. Military, National and Racial Discourses,” from *Perilous Memories: The Asia-Pacific War(s)*
- Caroline Chung Simpson, “Introduction,” Chapter 1, from *An Absent Presence: Japanese Americans in Postwar American Culture*
- Lisa Yoneyama, “For Transformative Knowledge and Postnationalist Public Spheres: The Smithsonian Enola Gay Controversy,” from *Perilous Memories*
- Kelly Oliver and Benigno Trigo, “Introduction,” *Noir Anxiety*
- Chester Himes, “Zoot Riots Are Race Riots,” from *Black on Black*
- Velina Hasu Houston, “Tea,” *Unbroken Thread: Plays by Asian American Women*

**Recommended books at Groundwork Books and at SSHL Course Reserves:**

- Caroline Chung Simpson, *An Absent Presence* (Duke UP)
- T. Fujitani, et al., *Perilous Memories: The Asia-Pacific War(s)* (Duke UP)
- Traise Yamamoto, *Masking Selves* (U California)
- Kelly Oliver and Benigno Trigo, *Noir Anxiety* (U Minnesota)
- “Los Angeles, the Future of Urban Cultures,” *American Quarterly*, 56:3 (*not at SSHL*)

**Recommended films on reserve at the Film and Video Library, SSHL**

- “L.A. Confidential,” Curtis Hanson
- “Chinatown,” Roman Polanski
- “Devil in a Blue Dress,” Carl Franklin
- “Zoot Suit,” Luis Valdez
- “Malcolm X,” Spike Lee
**Schedule of Assignments and Lectures**
*Please make every effort to complete readings by assigned dates.*

### Week 1
- **Jan 3** introduction
- **Jan 5** Hersey and Adams, *Manzanar* (reader)
- **Jan 7** Okada, *No-no Boy*; Takaki, *Democracy* (reader)

### Week 2
- **Jan 10** Okada, *No-no Boy*; Rostow, *American Policy in Asia* (reader); Luce, “American Century” (reader)
- **Jan 14** Fujitani, “*Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers*” (reader); Suggested further reading: Yu, Ch. 5, 6, in *Thinking Orientals*

### Week 3
- **Jan 17** *Martin Luther King holiday, no class*
- **Jan 21** Kogawa, *Obasan*; Yoneyama, “*Enola Gay Controversy*” (reader)

### Week 4
- **Jan 24** Yamamoto, “*Death Rides the Rails to Poston,*” “*Fire in Fontana*” in *Seventeen Syllables*; Hong, “‘Something’” (reader)
- **Jan 26** Yamamoto, “*Legend of Miss Sasagawara,*” “*Seventeen Syllables*”; “*Wilshire Bus,*” “*The Brown House*”
- **Jan 28** Yamamoto, “*Yoneko’s,*” “*Epithalamium,*” “*Las Vegas Charley*
  - Midterm paper topics distributed

### Week 5
- **Jan 31** Kim, *Clay Walls*
- **Feb 2** Kim, *Clay Walls*
- **Feb 4** Kim, *Clay Walls*; Macias, “Bringing Music” (reader)
  - Suggested further reading: Lowe, “Imagining Los Angeles in the Production of Multiculturalism,” in *Immigrant Acts*

### Week 6
- **Feb 7** “*L.A. Confidential*” (FVL reserve); Oliver/Trigo, *Noir Anxiety* (reader)
- **Feb 9** “*Chinatown*” (FVL reserve)
  - Suggested further reading: Oliver/Trigo, Ch. 7, in *Noir Anxiety*
- **Feb 11** “*Devil in a Blue Dress*” (FVL reserve)
  - Suggested further reading: Oliver/Trigo, Ch. 8, in *Noir Anxiety*
  - Midterm papers due
### Week 7

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Valdez, <em>Zoot Suit</em>; Alvarez, “Of Pachucos” (reader); Simpson, Ch. 1, <em>Absent Presence</em> (reader)</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Valdez, <em>Zoot Suit</em>; Kelley, “Riddle of the Zoot” (reader)</td>
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<td>Suggested viewing: “Malcolm X,” Spike Lee (FVL reserve)</td>
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<td>Suggested further reading: Lipsitz, “Frantic to Join the Japanese Army,” in <em>Perilous Memories: The Asia-Pacific War(s)</em></td>
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### Week 8

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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>*President’s Day holiday, no class</td>
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<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Himes, <em>If He Hollers, Let Him Go</em></td>
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<td>3rd response paper due</td>
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<td>Feb 25</td>
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### Week 9

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<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Himes, <em>If He Hollers, Let Him Go</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Houston, “Tea” (reader)</td>
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<td>Suggested further reading: Simpson, Ch. 5, <em>Absent Presence</em></td>
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### Week 10

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<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Hirahara, <em>Summer of the Big Bachi</em></td>
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<td>Final paper topics distributed</td>
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<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>Hirahara, <em>Summer of the Big Bachi</em></td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>conclusion</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
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