ETHN 126:
Comparative Filipino and Vietnamese American Identities and Communities

Class Time: MWF 12-12:50 @ SEQ 147
Instructor: Prof. Amanda Solomon
Email: alsolomon@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: M/W 2-4 @ SSB 245 & T/Th 2-3 @ the Cross Cultural Center

**Course Description**
This course compares and contrasts the historical, social, political, and economic experiences of Filipino and Vietnamese Americans, focusing especially on the impact of U.S. wars in the Philippines and Vietnam on their respective lives. We will be especially exploring shared imperial/military legacies in Southeast Asia and the possibility of Filipino-Vietnamese coalitions.

Key questions of this course are: what are the critical divergences and productive parallels in the histories of western imperialism in Vietnam and the Philippines? How have both societies been affected by U.S. militarism? How can we compare the immigration histories and experiences of Filipinos and Vietnamese in the U.S.? What issues and concerns do Filipinos and Vietnamese share, both in their home countries and in diaspora? What are instances of coalition between Filipino and Vietnamese communities?

**Course Requirements**
NOTE: ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS AND VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY MAY RESULT IN AUTOMATIC FAIL.

- Attendance & Participation: 10%
  This grade is determined partly by a student’s consistent attendance and lack of tardiness as well as by participation in small and large group discussions and/or visits to office hours. Roll will be taken every class meeting. Failure to attend at least 60% of scheduled class meetings will result in an automatic F.

- Group presentation: 15%
  In small groups, each student will present on the readings for one day of class. Students will be responsible for discussing the critical or literary elements of the reading and pose questions for discussion that can explore the texts themselves and/or put the texts in relationship to other readings of the class. Each student is
expected to present for 5 to 7 minutes, and will submit a 1pg summary of his/her contribution to the group. Presentations are meant to stimulate the discussion for the day.

- 2 In-class Reading Quizzes: 20% each for 40% total

There will be two unannounced reading quizzes during the quarter. As long as students have read the assigned texts attentively, they will be able to successfully complete the short answer questions. Unless students have a valid documented excuse, missed quizzes cannot be made up.

- Final Exam: 35%

The final exam will be designed to take the assigned three hours. It will be a bluebook exam composed of short answers and longer essays. It will be closed note, closed book.

Office for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities should talk with me as soon as possible to make accommodations for the quarter. Please see the Office for Students with Disabilities website for more information.

Tutoring and Writing Academic Support and Instructional Services
Students who would like help with essay writing and/or students who are English language learners are encouraged to visit the tutoring centers on campus. Please see the OASIS website for more information.

Required Texts
Espiritu, Yen Le. Homebound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries.
Phan, Aimee. We Should Never Meet.
Roley, Brian Ascalon. American Son.
thuy, le thi diem. The Gangster We Are All Looking For.

*All other readings available at http://libraries.ucsd.edu/resources/course-reserves/. You will need to search for our class and use the password as126.

Tentative Schedule of Readings

**Unit 1: Imperial Memories**

Week 1

- M 1/7: Introduction
- W 1/9:
  - F 1/11: Rafael, Vicente. Introduction. *White Love and Other Events in Philippine History*
- F 1/11

  Week 2

- M 1/14:
  - Espiritu, Yen Le. “The ‘We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose’ Syndrome: U.S. Press Coverage of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the ‘Fall of Saigon’”

- W 1/16:

- F 1/18:

  **Unit 2: “war is a bird”**

  Week 3

- M 1/21: No Class
- F 1/25: thuy, Chs 1-2, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*

  Week 4

- M 1/28: thuy, Chs 3-4, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*
- W 1/30: thuy, Ch 5, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*
- F 2/1: No Class

  Week 5

- M 2/4: *Journey from the Fall* (in-class screening)
- W 2/6: *Journey from the Fall* (in-class screening)
- F 2/8: *Journey from the Fall* (in-class screening)
Unit 3: Born of War & Empire

Week 6
- M 2/11: Journey from the Fall (discussion)
- W 2/13:
- F 2/15: Phan, Aimee. “Miss Lien”, “We Should Never Meet”, and “Visitors”

Week 7
- M 2/18: No Class

Week 8
- M 2/25: Roley, Part One, American Son
- W 2/27: Roley, Part Two, American Son
- F 3/1: Roley, Part Three, American Son

Unit 4: Making Home

Week 9
- M 3/4:
- W 3/6: Espiritu, Chs 1-2, Homebound
- F 3/8: Espiritu, Chs 3-4, Homebound

Week 10
- M 3/11: Espiritu, Chs 5-6, Homebound
- W 3/13: Espiritu, Chs 7-8
- F 3/15: Espiritu, Ch 9

Final Exam W 3/20 11:30-2:30
**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 do not 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, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, government and politics, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact: 
Daisy Rodriguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor 
858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu

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**Student Consent for Release of Student Information**

I hereby authorize the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department/Program to return my graded final examination/research paper by placing the examination/research paper in a location accessible to all students in the course. I understand that the return of my examination/research paper as described above may result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information, that is not public information as defined in UCSD PPM 160-2, and I hereby consent to the disclosure of such information.

Quarter: ____________________________________________
Course: ____________________________________________
Instructor: __________________________________________
Student I.D.#: _______________________________________
Print Name: _________________________________________
Signature: _________________________________________