

Ethnic Studies 20: Introduction to Asian American Studies
FALL 2007

Lecture: Tues/Thurs. 12:30 – 1:50 pm in CENTER 212

Instructor: Thuy Vo Dang
Office: Social Sciences Building (SSB) 249
Email: t5vo@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tues. 2:30-4pm
Thurs. 10:30am-12pm

Course Description

This course will critically examine Asian Americans through U.S.-national and transnational frameworks. We will explore a range of scholarly, literary, and visual texts in order to understand how the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies has shifted from an investment in domestic social justice concerns to consider how war, colonialism, and global capitalism have shaped Asian American lives historically and in the contemporary moment. This course pays particular attention to the ways in which Asian Americans negotiate these structural forces in their everyday lives. We will also consider queerness, silence, and expressive cultural forms in order to explore questions of agency and identity.

Section Information*

Section	Day	Time	Location	Instructor	Email	Office
A01	Wed	9 am	York 3000A	Cathi Kozen	ckozen@ucsd.edu	SSB 250
A02	Wed	12 pm	WLH 2208	Ma Vang	mvang@ucsd.edu	SSB 250
A03	Thurs	10 am	York 3000A	Cathi Kozen		
A04	Thurs	3 pm	CSB 004	Ma Vang		

**You must attend the section you are enrolled in. You WILL NOT receive credit for attending a section you are not enrolled in.*

Required Texts

- Ngai, Mae M. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2003. ISBN: 0691124299
- le thi diem thuy. *The gangster we are all looking for*. New York: Anchor Books, 2004. ISBN: 0375400184

Books are available at Groundworks Bookstore (855) 452-9625

- Ethnic Studies 20 Reader sold by University Readers

Course readers can be ordered online at www.universityreaders.com/students or by calling (800) 200-3908 or (858) 552-1120.

The books and reader are on reserve at the Social Sciences and Humanities Library.

Requirements

- 1) **Attendance:** It is required that you attend all lectures and discussion sections. Pop quizzes may be given occasionally during either lecture or section. Films and other media shown during lectures will not be made available on reserve.

- 2) **Readings:** You should complete weekly readings **before** Tuesday lectures. This will help you get the most out of lectures and be prepared to participate in discussion.
- 3) **Assignments:**
 - a. Assignment # 1 will be due in lecture Oct. 16
 - b. Assignment # 2 will be due in lecture Nov. 13
- 4) **Exams**
 - a. Midterm: Thurs., Oct. 25
 - b. Final: due Mon., Dec. 10

Grading*

Section Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes**	15%
Assignment #1.....	15%
Assignment #2.....	15%
Midterm.....	25%
Final.....	30%

*You must complete all course requirements in order to pass the course.

** You must receive a passing grade in section to pass the course. Section grades are assigned by your teaching assistant and will be based on your attendance and active participation in classroom discussion.

Reading & Lecture Schedule*

*This schedule is subject to change

Sept. 27: Introduction

Week 1 (Oct. 2 & 4): Roots of Asian American Studies

Espiritu, Yen Le. "Coming Together: The Asian American Movement" in *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1992. pp. 19-52.

Okihiro, Gary. "When and Where I Enter," in *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture*. Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1994. pp. 3-30.

Omatsu, Glenn. "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s" in *The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s*. Ed. Karin Aguilar-San Juan. Boston: South End Press, 1994. pp. 19-69.

Week 2 (Oct. 9 & 11): Asian American Racial Formation in National & Transnational Context

Impossible Subjects, pp. 1-55

Lowe, Lisa. "Immigration, Citizenship, Racialization: Asian American Critique" in *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*. Durham: Duke UP, 1997. pp. 1-36.

Wong, K. Scott. "Diasporas, Displacements, and the Construction of Transnational Identities," in *Displacements and Diasporas: Asians in the Americas*. Eds. Wanni W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2005. pp. 41-53.

Week 3 (Oct. 16 & 18): "Towards a Critical Transnational Perspective"

***Assignment #1 due in Lecture Oct. 16**

Bonacich, Edna. "U.S. Capitalist Development: A Background to Asian Immigration," in *Labor Immigration under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States Before World War II*. Ed. L. Cheng and E. Bonacich. Berkeley: UC Press, 1984. pp. 79-129.

Campomanes, Oscar V. "New Formations of Asian American Studies and the Questions of U.S. Imperialism" in *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (1997): 523-50

Espiritu, Yen Le. "Home Making," in *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2003. pp. 1-22.

Wong, Sau-Ling Cynthia. "Denationalization Reconsidered: Asian American Cultural Criticism at a Theoretical Crossroads." *Amerasia Journal* 21:1&2 (1995):1-27

Week 4 (Oct. 23 & 25): Midterm

Film screened in lecture
MIDTERM OCT. 25

Week 5 (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1): Global Capitalism, War, and Postwar Reckonings

The gangster we are all looking for

Impossible Subjects, pp. 93-126

Ong, Aihwa. "The Refugee as Ethical Figure" in *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2003. pp. 69-90.

Week 6 (Nov. 6 & 8): Post-1965 Immigration

George, Sheba Mariam. "Transnational Connections: the Janus-Faced Production of an Immigrant Community" in *When Women Come First: Gender and Class in Transnational Migration*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2005. pp. 158-96.

Luibheid, Eithne. "The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act: An 'End' to Exclusion?" *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2(1997): 501-21.

Hing, Bill Ong. "Social Forces Unleashed after 1965" in *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1993. pp. 79-120.

Week 7 (Nov. 13 & 15): "Model Minorities and Bad Subjects"***Assignment #2 due in Lecture Nov. 13**

Impossible Subjects, pp. 175-201

Park, Edward and John Park. "Probationary Americans" in *Probationary Americans: Contemporary Immigration Policy and the Shaping of Asian American Communities*. New York: Routledge, 2005. pp. 107-14.

Park, Lisa Sun-Hee. "Continuing Significance of the Model Minority Myth: The Second Generation", forthcoming in *Social Justice* 35:1(2008).

Week 8 (Nov. 20 & Thanksgiving)

Film screened in lecture

Week 9 (Nov. 27 & 29): Queering Asian America

Eng, David. Epilogue: Out Here and Over There: Queerness and Diaspora in Asian American Studies" in *Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America*. Durham: Duke UP, 2001. pp. 204-28.

Manalansan, Martin. "Speaking in Transit: Queer Language and Translated Lives" in *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Durham: Duke UP, 2003. pp. 45-61.

Gopinath, Gayatri. "Nostalgia, Desire, Diaspora: South Asian Sexualities in Motion." *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2(1997): 467-89.

Week 10 (Dec. 4 & 6): New Directions/Different Strategies

Impossible Subjects, pp. 227-70.

Duncan, Patti. "Introduction: The Uses of Silence and the Will to Unsay" in *Tell This Silence: Asian American Women Writers and the Politics of Speech*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2004. pp. 1-30.

Espiritu, Yen Le. "Toward a Critical Refugee Study: The Vietnamese Refugee Subject in US Scholarship." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 1:1&2(2006): 410-33.

Phi, Thien-Bao. "For Us," *Amerasia Journal* 29:1(2003): 76-9.

FINAL PAPERS/PROJECTS DUE MONDAY, DEC. 10

*******Majoring or Minor 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 have no information about the major or minor and don't 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, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.