

ETHN 20 - Introduction to Asian American Studies

Fall 2013

Tu-Th 2-3:20 pm, Center 113

University of California, San Diego

Instructor:	Kit Myers
Office:	SSB 243
Office hours:	Tues and Thurs 3:30-5 pm or by appointment
Email:	kmyers@ucsd.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course offers an introduction to the multiple, heterogeneous histories, experiences, and cultural productions of Asian/Americans within the United States. It will provide a deeper understanding of the social, political, and economic contexts as well as the ways race, gender, and sexuality have played key roles in forming Asian American lives. We will engage in a variety of texts (historical, theoretical, legal, literary, cultural, and film) to examine how "Asian American" (AA) emerged as a relational racial category. We will also explore how such cultural representations and racial ideology of AAs have contributed to unjust structural inequalities. In this sense, part of the course goal involves the investigation of racial knowledge production and relations of power. For example, who is included in the category "Asian American"; who produces knowledge about "Asian Americans"; for what purpose; and how has this changed over time? How does this affect AA identities, families, communities, and consciousness? In attempt to engage these questions, this course will provide a non-linear tracing/mapping of the AA movement, history of im/migration, exclusion, "inclusion," resistance, and futures.

<u>Teaching Assistants</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Section Day/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Malathi Iyengar	miyengar@ucsd.edu	Tu: 4-4:50 and 5-5:50 pm	Center 201
Mohamed Abumaye	mabumaye@ucsd.edu	Th: 4-4:50 and 5-5:50 pm	Center 201

READINGS AND FILMS:

Required: All readings will be available as PDFs through UCSD library course e-reserves at <http://reserves.ucsd.edu> [password: "km20"] OR TED at <http://ted.ucsd.edu/>. You are *required to bring* the assigned readings to class and section (print or electronic is fine). The films not shown in class can be viewed through "Digital Media Reserves" within the course e-reserves page. To access both readings and films off-campus, you will need to set up a proxy or VPN. If you need assistance with either, please search for directions by typing in "proxy" or "vpn" in the search bar at blink.ucsd.edu.

ATTENDANCE IN SECTION:

Section attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one absence (no questions asked). Each subsequent absence will result in minus 5% from your final grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Students will need to complete 3 film response papers, 9 short multiple-choice quizzes, 1 final project. No midterm or final exams for this course.

Quizzes: There will be 9 short multiple-choice quizzes (3-5 questions each). They will be taken at the beginning of section. You may not make up any missed quiz. The worst score will be dropped.

Response Papers: Directions can be found on TED. Students will complete between 3 film response papers (see grade value below). No late work will be accepted.

Final Project: You will produce a creative historical narrative. More details to follow.

Final Project due: Thursday, Dec. 12, 3:00 – 6:00 pm.

Course Evaluation:

Section *Participation*	5%
Response 1	10%
Response 2	20%
Response 3	20%
Quizzes	20%
Final Project	25%

CLASS CONDUCT:

Respect: By the very nature of the course topic, there will likely be a wide range of opinions. A good classroom environment should stimulate you to think for yourself, challenge paradigms, and raise critical questions. Please keep in mind, however, that we must engage each other in a respectful and considerate manner. These ground rules are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community to which we are all expected to adhere (<http://www-vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>). Abusive and harsh language, intimidation, and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Digital Etiquette: All personal electronics should be off or on “silent” mode. Texting, games, school work not pertaining to class, and social media (Facebook, Youtube, email, etc.) are not permitted.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is a serious violation, whether intentional or inadvertent. All work submitted in this course must be your own and original. The use of sources such as ideas, quotations, paraphrases, or anything written by someone else must be properly acknowledged and cited. Plagiarism is when you use someone else’s words without attribution; it includes using portions of a previously published work or website in a paper without citing the source, submitting a paper written for another course, submitting a paper written by someone else, and using the ideas of someone else without attribution. If you have questions about the proper citation of sources, please discuss them with your instructors or consult UCSD’s Center for Academic Integrity at: <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of class. Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students can seek assistance or information at ODS, located at University Center 202 or call: (858) 534-4382.

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies

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 Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor at: 858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu.

SCHEDULE:

Note: I reserve the right to revise the contents of this syllabus at any given time (with due notice).

Week 0

9/26

Required Background Readings

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, "On the Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race," 199-208.

Vijay Prashad, "American Ideology," 37-69.

Unit 1 – Beginnings of the Movement, History, and Law

Week 1

10/1

Asian/Americans, Asian American Movement & Why Asian American Studies?

Yen Espiritu, "Coming Together: The Asian American Movement," 19-52.

Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s," 164-196.

Film shown in class: *A Song for Ourselves*

Week 2

10/8

Exclusion and Home Making

Sucheng Chan, "Hostility and Conflict," 47-66.

Gary Okihiro, "Is Yellow Black or White?" 31-63.

Yen Espiritu, "Home Making," 1-22.

Film shown in class: *Slaying the Dragon*

Week 3

10/15

Settler Colonialism, Statehood, and Resistance

Dean Saranillio, "Colliding Histories: Hawai'i Statehood at the Intersection of Asians 'Ineligible for Citizenship' and Hawaiians 'Unit for Self-government,'" 283-310.

Haunani-Kay Trask, *From a Native Daughter*, 41-109.

Film on Digital Media Reserves: *Noho Hewa*

Response paper 1 Due Thursday

Unit 2 – Asian Perils and the Model Minority

Week 4

10/22

Race, Health, and Sexuality

Natalia Molina, "Caught between Discourses of Disease, Health, and Nation," 15-45.

Nayan Shah, "Perversity, Contamination, and the Dangers of Queer Domesticity," 77-104.

Dana Takagi, "Maiden Voyage: Excursion into Sexuality and Identity Politics in Asian America," 21-35.

Film in class: *History and Memory*

Week 5

10/29

WWII – Yellow and Middle Eastern Perils

Hisaye Yamamoto, "Seventeen Syllables," 8-20.

Mae Ngai, "The WWII Internment of Japanese Americans and the Citizenship Renunciation Cases," 175-201.

Melani McAlister, "Iran, Islam, and the Terrorist Threat, 1979-1989," 198-234.

Film on Digital Media Reserves: *Cats of Mirikitani*

Week 6

11/5 **Racial Triangulation and the Model Minority Myth**

US News Report, "Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S." 158-163.

"The Rise of Asian Americans" *Pew Research Poll* and "In a Shift, Biggest Wave of Migrants Is Now Asian" *The New York Times*, available on TED.

Park and Park, "Engineering the Model Minority," 97-107

Lynn Fujiwara, "Welfare Reform and the Politics of Citizenship," 22-50.

Film shown in class: *Slaying the Dragon Reloaded*

Response paper 2 Due Tuesday

Unit 3 – Figures of War, Humanitarianism, and Violence

Week 7

11/12 **The Refugee Figure and SE Asian Americans**

Ka Vang, "Pao Dreams of Bodyslams, Andre the Giant, and Hulk Hogan," 133-151.

Linda Trinh Vo, "The Vietnamese American Experience: from Dispersion to the Development of Post-Refugee Communities," 290-306.

Ma Vang, "The Refugee Soldier: A Critique of Recognition and Citizenship," 685-712.

Film on Digital Media Reserves: *New Year Baby*

Week 8

11/19 **The Orphan Figure and Transnational Adoption**

Bert Ballard, "The Narrative of International Adoption," available on TED.

Christina Yang, "Redefining and Reclaiming Korean Adoptee Identity: Grassroots Internet Communities and the The Hague Convention," 131-172.

Kim, "The War-Surplus of Our New Imperialism," 193-235.

Film shown in Class: *Somewhere Between*

Response paper 3 due Thurs

Week 9

10/26 **Gendered Labor and Anti-Asian Violence**

Miriam Louie, "Breaking the Cycle: Women Workers Confront Corporate Greed Globally," in *Dragon Ladies*, 121-131.

Grace Chang, "The Global Trade in Filipina Workers," in *Dragon Ladies*, 132-152.

Kalindi Vora, "Medicine, Markets and the Pregnant Body: Indian Commercial Surrogacy and Reproductive Labor in a Transnational Frame," available on TED.

Yen Espiritu, "Reactive Solidarity: Anti-Asian Violence," 134-160.

No class on Thursday

Film on Digital Media Reserves: *Who Killed Vincent Chin? Or Vincent Who?*

Unit 4: Asian American Futures

Week 10

12/3 **Home Making and Feminist Solidarities**

Linda Trinh Võ, "Beyond Color-blind Universalism," 327-342.

Yen Espiritu, "Homes, Borders, and Possibilities," 205-222.

Haunani-Kay Trask, "Feminism and Indigenous Hawaiian Nationalism," 906-916.

Ignatius Bau, "Queer Asian American Immigrants: Opening Borders and Closets," 57-64.

No Film

12/ 12 FINAL PROJECT Presentations, 3-6 pm

Student Consent for Release of Student Information

I hereby authorize the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department 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:
