

**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**

1. Yen Le Espiritu. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*.
2. *Amerasia Journal*: “30 Years AfterWARd: Vietnamese Americans & U.S. Empire.” UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press. (vol. 31, no. 2) 2005.
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](http://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 its self.*

Milan Kundera

### **Week 1. Ghostly Violence: U.S. Empire in Southeast Asia**

- Avery Gordon, “Her Shape and His Hand.”
- Amy Kaplan, “Introduction.”
- Luzviminda Francisco, “The First Vietnam: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902.”
- Mark Philip Bradley. “Trusteeship and the American Vision of Postcolonial Vietnam
- 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
- Nick Deocampo. “Imperialist Fictions: The Filipino in the Imperialist Imaginary.” Marita Sturken. “Reenactment and the Making of History: The Vietnam War as Docudrama.” In Tangles Memories

### **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.aavw.org/protest/homepage\\_king.html](http://www.aavw.org/protest/homepage_king.html)
- George Mariscal. “Introduction.

*This course is based on Y. Espiritu’s ETHN 189 syllabus (spring 2004).*

#### **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."
- Bao Ninh, excerpt from *The Sorrow of War*, pp. 183-193.
- 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**

- Yen Espiritu, *Homebound*. Chs. 2-3
- 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."
- Min Zhou and Carl Bankston, "The Scatterings of War."
- 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
- Nazli Kibria. "The Family Tightrope: Gender Relations."
- Paul Ong and Evelyn Blumenberg. "Welfare and Work among Southeast Asians."

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

#### **Week 8. For the Love of Family**

- Yen Espiritu. *Home Bound*. Chs. 6-7.

*This course is based on Y. Espiritu's ETHN 189 syllabus (spring 2004).*

- Martin Manalansan. “The Biyuti and Drama of Everyday Life.”
- Hung Thai. “Clashing Dreams: Highly Educated Overseas Brides and Low-Wage U.S. Husbands.” In *Global Woman*
- Amerasia Journal, Section IV, Afterword

**VIDEO: “Silent Sacrifices”**

*Note: KP Culture Night, May 25-26, location TBA.*

**Week 9. Inventing Culture, Traditions, and Identities**

- Theodore S. Gonzalves. “The Night the Dancers Stayed: On Pilipino Cultural Nights.” In *Filipino Americans*
- Nhi Lieu. “Remembering ‘the Nation’ through Pageantry: Femininity and the Politics of Vietnamese Womanhood in the *Hao Hau Ao Dai* Contest.”
- Kieu Linh Caroline Valverde. “Making Vietnamese Music transnational: Sounds of Home, Resistance, and Change.” *Amerasia Journal* 29:1 (2003): 29-49.
- 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.**