

ETHN 122 / Asian American Culture & Identity: Sex, War, Body

Instructor: Harrod J Suarez

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Date, Time: MWF, 2-2:50 pm

Class: Peterson Hall 102

Office Hours: Monday, 12-2 pm, SSB 247; or by appt.

DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will consider how Asian American racialization has been formed at three sites: sex, war and body. What does **sex** have to do with the racialization of Asian Americans? How do histories of **war** and violence impact dominant ideas about Asian Americans? How can we read the Asian American **body**? This focus will empower us to critique the contemporary stakes of Asian American culture and identity. We will explore rich literature, art and film which explore issues surrounding Asian Americans. The course will have a transnational focus, refusing to treat Asian and Asian American as discrete identities, populations and cultures. Students will work as individuals and in groups, as well as online, in order to fulfill the requirements for the course.

		TEXTS
GRADING		Marguerite Duras. <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i> . David Henry Hwang. <i>M. Butterfly</i> . Lê Thi Diem Thúy. <i>The Gangster We Are All Looking For</i> . Monique Truong. <i>The Book of Salt</i> . Articles on E-reserve.
<u>Scale</u>		<i>All books are available at Groundworks and on reserve at Geisel.</i>
A	470-500 pts	ASSIGNMENTS, IN-BRIEF
A-	450-469	
B+	435-449	
B	420-434	
B-	400-419	
C+	385-399	
C	370-384	
C-	350-369	
D	300-349	1. Discussion Board Entries 100
F	below 300	2. Online Assignment 50
		3. Attendance / Participation 50
		4. Group Presentation 50
		5. Group Paper 50
		6. Midterm Exam 100
		7. Final Exam 100
		Total: 500 pts
		<i>Late assignments will not be accepted.</i>

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Discussion Board Entries (100 pts):

These will be submitted to the Discussion Board on the WebCT page created for the class. At the beginning of each week, I will post a text—it could be an image, a quote, a video, etc.—to which you should respond. After studying the text, post a response to the questions that accompany it. You will need to respond to a total of four posts. Each post is worth 25 points. This work online will take the place of class every other week, beginning the second week. These assignments will also count toward your attendance and participation. *Please note:* These entries must be posted by the end of the week for which the board was updated. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. Attendance / Participation (50 pts):

Please come to class on time and contribute to class by asking questions and offering comments. Even with big groups, learning is most effective when it is collaborative. Please turn cell phones off. Discussion Board entries and the group presentation will also count toward this category.

3. Group Presentation (50 pts):

Beginning the third week, one day will consist of one or two group presentations, with some exceptions. Your task is to prepare a presentation for the class that addresses the particular theme for that week. You should incorporate the week's readings into your presentation and provide insight on those readings for students. You also want to refer to the Discussion Board post for that week. Above all, make sure to bring the class up to speed in terms of the overall themes—Asian American identity, gender, sexuality, war, race, the body, etc.—in a presentation that should last between 20 and 30 minutes. You are free to use any format you want. Please keep in mind that you will be evaluated—by your peers—according to how organized, effective and creative your presentation is.

4. Group Paper (50 pts):

Each group presentation will be accompanied by a group paper, although this will not be due until the second to last week of the quarter. Guidelines and expectations for the papers will be discussed in class. These papers should be five pages in length.

5. Online Assignment (50 pts):

This short paper, which should be between 3 and 5 pages, will be submitted to the WebCT page created for the class in lieu of the last day of class. Guidelines and expectations for this paper will be distributed online.

6. Midterm Exam (100 pts)

7. Takehome Final Exam (100 pts)

TOTAL: 500 pts

SCHEDULE

(Wk1) March 31-April 4: *Dominant Representations*

Lee, Robert. "Introduction: Yellowface," *Orientalists*.

Wong, Sau-ling C., and Jeffrey J. Santa Ana. "Gender and Sexuality in Asian American Literature," *Signs* (1999) 25:1, 171-226.

Chin, Frank. "Come All Ye Asian American Writers of the Real and the Fake," in *The Big Aiiieeeee!* eds. Jeffery Paul Chan, Frank Chin, Lawson Fusao Inada and Shawn Wong.

(Wk2) April 7-11: *Model Minority Politics*

Hirabayashi, Lane Ryo and Marilyn Caballero Alquizola. "Whither the Asian American Subject?" in *Color-Line to Borderlands*, ed. Johnnella Butler.

Lee, Robert. "The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority Myth," *Orientalists*.

Saito, Leland. "Asian American Political Issues," *Race and Politics*.

Truong, Monique. *The Book of Salt*, pgs 1-40

(Wk3) April 14-18: *Troubling the Nation*

Shah, Nayan. "Reforming Chinatown," *Contagious Divides*.

Luibheid, Eithne. "A Blueprint for Exclusion: The Page Law, Prostitution, and Discrimination against Chinese Women," *Entry Denied*.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. "Japanese and Haoles in Hawaii," *Unequal Freedom*.

Truong, Monique. *The Book of Salt*, pgs 41-84

Group presentation(s) on Wednesday, April 16.

(Wk4) April 21-25: *Transnational Asian America and Its Methods*

Hune, Shirley. "Asian American Studies and Asian Studies: Boundaries and Borderlands of Ethnic Studies and Area Studies," *Color-Line to Borderlands*, ed. Johnnella Butler.

Grewal, Inderpal. "Traveling Barbie: Indian Transnationalities and the Global Consumer," *Transnational America*.

Truong, Monique. *The Book of Salt*, pgs 85-119

Group presentation(s) on Monday, April 21.

(Wk5) April 28-May 2: *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

Midterm: April 28

Film screening: *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

Duras, Marguerite. *Hiroshima Mon Amour*.

Truong, Monique. *The Book of Salt*, pgs 120-161

(Wk6) May 5-9: *Bombs, Hunters, Terrorists*

Alsultany, Evelyn. "Selling American Diversity and Muslim American Identity through Nonprofit Advertising Post-9/11," *American Quarterly* (2007) 59:3, 593-622.

Schein, Louisa, and Va-Megn Thoj. "Occult Racism: The Masking of Race in the Hmong Hunter Incident," *American Quarterly* (2007) 59:4.

Truong, Monique. *The Book of Salt*, pgs 162-261

Group presentation(s) on Wednesday, May 7.

(Wk7) May 12-16: *The Spoils of War*

Shimakawa, Karen. "I should be — American!" Abjection and the Asian (American) Body," *National Abjection*.

Shimizu, Celine Parreñas. "The Bind of Representation: Performing and Consuming Hypersexuality in *Miss Saigon*," *The Hypersexuality of Race*.

Hwang, David Henry. *M. Butterfly*.

Group presentation(s) on Wednesday, May 14.

(Wk8) May 19-23: *More Spoils of War*

Isaac, Allan. "Reconstituting American Subjects: Proximate Masculinities," *American Tropics*.

Thúy, Lê Thi Diem. *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*.

Choy, Catherine Ceniza. "Salvaging the Savage: On Representing Filipinos and Remembering American Empire," in *Screaming Monkeys*, ed. M. Evelina Galang, 35-49.

Group presentation(s) on Wednesday, May 21.

(Wk9) May 26-30: "*Salvaging the Savage*"

Note: No class on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. "The International Division of Reproductive Labor," *Servants of Globalization*.

Manalansan, Martin. "The Borders between *Bakla* and *Gay*," *Global Divas*.

Group presentation(s) on Wednesday, May 28.

Group papers due on Friday, May 30.

(Wk10) June 2-6: *Conclusions*

Kang, Laura Hyun Yi. "Generic Fixations: Reading the Writing Self," *Compositional Objects*.

Ono, Kent. "Re/signing 'Asian American': Rhetorical Problematics of Nation," *Amerasia* 21:1,2 (1995), 67-78.

Online assignment due on Friday, June 6, by 3 pm.

FINAL EXAM DUE: Friday, June 13, 6 pm. Peterson 102.

Note about online coursework

Discussion board entries and the Online assignment will take the place of these five class meetings, each of them Fridays:

April 11

April 25

May 9

May 23

June 6

ETHNIC STUDIES MAJOR OR MINOR

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, Undergraduate Advisor for the Department of Ethnic Studies, at (858) 534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. The University of California, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in any of its policies, procedures, or practices; nor does the university discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

2. Students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor's standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

>No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.

>No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.

>No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.

>No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.

>No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.

>No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.

>No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

For more information, please consult the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship.

