

ETHN 126  
**Comparative Filipino and Vietnamese American Identities and Communities**  
Winter 2009  
Tues/Thurs. 12:30-1:50 pm, Solis 110

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Office hours: Tues. 2-3pm; Thurs. 10 am-12pm

### **Course Description**

This course comparatively examines Filipino and Vietnamese American identities and communities as they have been structured by US empire and wars in Southeast Asia at different historical moments. Drawing from scholarly research, literature, and visual media, we will examine the convergences of identity and community formations among Filipino and Vietnamese Americans by focusing on the transnational dimensions of their lives. Foregrounding war and imperialism as primary catalysts for their migration to the US, we will explore how they have been made subject to US racial formation before and after their arrival in the US. Most importantly, we seek to understand how they craft their own lives through their memories of the homeland as well as their struggles to belong in America.

### **Required Texts**

- 1) Yen Le Espiritu. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2003.
- 2) Hung Cam Thai. *For Better or For Worse: Vietnamese International Marriages in the New Global Economy*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2008.
- 3) Brian Ascalon Roley. *American Son*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.
- 4) Aimee Phan, *We Should Never Meet*. Macmillan Publishers, 2005.
- 5) Ethnic Studies 126 Reader on E-Reserve

- All books are available at Groundwork Book Store (452-9625)

### **Course Requirements & Grading**

- 1) Active Participation/Learning: This course will be structured on a lecture-discussion model. The success of the course depends on *your* active engagement. (1-page self-evaluation due with Final Exam) **15%**
- 2) Weekly 1-2 pp. Reading Response Papers (Due Thursdays) **20%**
- 3) Community Event Analysis & Presentation. (Due Weeks 6-9) **20%**
- 4) Midterm Exam. (In class, Feb. 3, 2009. Blue books required.) **20%**
- 5) Take-Home Final Exam. (Due March 17, 2009) **25%**

## **Schedule**

### **Week 1 (Jan. 6 & 8) Remembering and Forgetting in History**

Benjamin, Walter. "Theses on the Philosophy of History." *Illuminations*. Ed. Hannah Arendt and translated by Harry Zohn. New York: Schocken Books, 1969. pp. 243-256.

Mageo, Jeannette. "On Memory Genres: Tendencies in Cultural Remembering." *Cultural Memory: Reconfiguring History and Identity in the Postcolonial Pacific*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001. pp. 11-36.

Tai, Hue-Tam Ho. "Situating Memory." *The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam*, edited by Hue-Tam Ho Tai. Berkeley: UC Press, 2001. pp. 1-17.

### **Week 2 (Jan. 13 & 15) The Presence of US Empire in Southeast Asia**

Bradley, Mark Philip. "Trusteeship and the American Vision of Postcolonial Vietnam," *Imagining Vietnam and America*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2000. pp. 73-106.

Francisco, Luzviminda. "The First Vietnam: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902," *The Philippines, End of an Illusion*. London: AREAS, 1973.

Kaplan, Amy. "'Left Alone with America' The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture," *Cultures of United States Imperialism*. Eds. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease. Durham: Duke UP, 1993. pp. 3-21.

Kinney, Katherine. "Imperial Allegories: American Exceptionalism and Empire," *Friendly Fire: American Images of the Vietnam War*. Oxford UP, 2000. pp. 43-80.

Screening: *Memories of a Forgotten War*

### **Week 3 (Jan. 20 & 22) Perspectives on US Wars in Southeast Asia**

*Home Bound*. Ch.1

Da Silva, Denise Ferreira. "A Tale of Two Cities: Saigon, Fallujah, and the Ethical Boundaries of Empire." *Amerasia Journal*, 31:2 (2005): pp. 121-134.

Deocampo, Nick. "Imperialist Fictions: The Filipino in the Imperialist Imaginary." *Vestiges of War*. New York UP, 2002. pp. 224-236.

Sturken, Marita. "Reenactment and the Making of History: The Vietnam War as Docudrama." *Tangled Memories*. UC Press, 1997. pp. 85-121.

Young, Marilyn B. "The War in America (1965-1967)" *The Vietnam Wars, 1945-1990*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1991. pp. 192-209.

#### **Week 4 (Jan. 27 & 29) In the Wake of the Wars**

*Home Bound*. Ch. 2-3

Choy, Cathy. "'The Usual Subjects': The Preconditions of Professional Migration." *Empire of Care*. Durham: Duke UP, 2003. pp. 41-57.

Rafael, Vicente. "'Your Grief Is Our Gossip': Overseas Filipinos and Other Spectral Presences." *White Love*. Durham: Duke UP, 2000. pp. 204-228.

Zhou, Min and Carl Bankston. "The Scatterings of War." *Growing Up American*. Russel Sage Foundation, 1999. pp. 24-41.

#### **Week 5 (Feb. 3 & 5) Midterm**

Screening: *Journey from the Fall*

#### **Week 6 (Feb. 10 & 12) Born of War and Empire**

*We Should Never Meet* (all)

Balce, Nerissa S. "Filipino Bodies, Lynching and the Language of Empire." *Positively No Filipinos Allowed*, eds. A. Tiongson, Jr., E. Gutierrez, and R. Gutierrez. Temple UP, 2006. pp. 43-60.

Valverde, Kieu Linh Caroline. "From Dust to Gold: The Vietnamese Amerasian Experience." *Racially Mixed People in America*. Ed. Maria Root. Sage Publications, 1997. pp. 144-161.

#### **Week 7 (17 & 19) Circuits of Migration**

*Home Bound*. Ch. 4-5

*For Better or for Worse* (all)

#### **Week 8 (24 & 26) Marriage and Changing Family Dynamics**

*Home Bound*. Ch. 6-7

Kibria, Nazli. "The Family Tightrope: Gender Relations." *Family Tightrope*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1993. pp. 108-143.

Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. "The International Division of Reproductive Labor." *Servants of Globalization*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2001. pp. 61-79.

Screening: *The Debut*

### **Week 9 (March 3 & 5): Embodying Transnational Identities**

*American Son* (all)

Bonus, Rick. "*Palengke* Politics and Beauty Pageants in Filipino Community Centers." *Locating Filipino Americans*. Temple UP, 2000. pp. 92-127.

Lieu, Nhi. "Remembering 'the Nation' Through Pageantry: Femininity and the Politics of Vietnamese Womanhood in the *Hao Hau Ao Dai* Contest." *Frontiers* 21:1/2(2000): 127-151.

### **Week 10 (March 10 & 12): Conclusion: Re-Inventions**

*Home Bound*, Ch. 8-9.

Pisares, Elizabeth. "Do You Mis(recognize) Me: Filipina Americans in Popular Music and the Problem of Invisibility," *Positively No Filipinos Allowed*, eds. A. Tiongson, Jr., E. Gutierrez, and R. Gutierrez. Temple UP, 2006. pp. 172-198.

### **TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE MARCH 17, 2009**

#### **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](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).