

Asian American Gender & Sexuality

ETHNIC STUDIES: 189 (Special Topics)

Warren Lecture Hall (WLH): 2114

2:00-2:50PM

Dr. Lisa Ho

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Office Hours: M 3:00 to 4:00 & By Appointment

Office Location: Perks @ Price Center



Spa Night (2016)

Course Description

This course will examine how gender and sexuality have intersected to shape the lived realities Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The course adopts a transnational and interdisciplinary lens to better understand how gender and sexuality has been used to constitute the bodies of Asian America within the projects of colonization, militarism, and capitalism. We will be focusing on how the normative constructs of masculinity, femininity, intimacy, and kinship have shaped and organized Asian America. Also, we will illuminate how Asian America have confronted and challenged the gendered oppression, violence, and discipline of these constructs.

This course will be conducted in a “seminar” format. I will not be giving formal lectures but will instead depend on the active participation, debate, and engagement of students. As such, students will be expected to work through the assigned readings thoroughly and carefully. The seminar format is rigorous but will offer a close and fruitful examination of course themes, concepts, and materials.

Required Readings

All readings will be posted on the TED course page. However, you will need to purchase the following:

For Today I Am A Boy: Kim Fu
M. Butterfly. David Henry Hwang

Assignments

Attendance & Participation: 10 Points

Discussion Lead: 10 Points

Weekly Assignments: 40 Points

Midterm: 20 Points

Final Essay: 20 Points

Attendance & Participation: Your attendance is required. You are allowed miss two days of class with no explanation or an excuse. **There are no excused absences. If you miss more than two classes**, your grade for attendance and participation will be **lowered by one point (or a 1/3 of grade) each time**. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please speak with me privately to discuss alternative ways you can make up your missing time. In addition, since this is a seminar, you will be expected to actively engage with your classmates through assigned readings.

Discussion Lead: With a partner, you will be required to present on the readings of any given week. You and your partner will create four discussion questions and write a summary that illustrates your understanding of the readings. Your summary must be at least 250-words. You will post the summary and questions on TritonED **by MIDNIGHT on the Thursday before you present** so your classmates can look at them beforehand for preparation. The goal of your discussion questions is to stimulate engagement and participation. You may use any additional materials to fulfill this objective such as popular culture, primary source documents, and anything else that may be helpful.

Weekly Assignment Posts: There will be two parts to your weekly assignment:

- The first part of your weekly post will be due by **MIDNIGHT** on **SUNDAYS**. You are required to do a 200-word write-up that highlights how all the different readings together to illuminate a theme of your choosing.
- The second part of your weekly post will be due by **MIDNIGHT** on **SATURDAYS**. You are required to do a 200-word write-up about how your understanding of the readings work together and chosen theme has changed in response to lecture, class discussion, and further close readings.

For example: if you are doing a post on week two readings—you must post the first portion of your weekly assignment the Sunday before week two starts. In this case, it would be January 13th. Each portion is worth 2.5 points. Both portions are worth five points which is full credit. Weekly assignments are graded on completion and

comprehension. If you only do one half of the assignment, you will receive partial credit. You will be doing weekly assignments from week 2 to week 8.

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS.

Midterm Exam: The midterm will be given during WEEK FIVE. The exam will consist of four short-answer questions based on the weeks prior to the exam.

Final Essay: You need to write a four to six-page essay analyzing a cultural text (of your own choice) that is relevant to the course. Cultural texts may include but are not limited to: films, music, artwork, video games, zines, or manga. You need to have your cultural object approved by me by WEEK EIGHT. In your analysis of your cultural text, you are required to use TWO readings from the course to build your assessment.

Your essay is due on WEDNESDAY OF FINALS WEEK.

YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THE COURSE.

Extra Credit Opportunity

31st All Peoples Celebration @ Balboa Park (January 20/21)

To receive extra credit, you must volunteer for one of the designated shifts. You must sign up at the beginning of your shift and you will receive a “coupon” when you complete your shift from an event official. Each shift lasts four hours. You will only receive extra credit for **one** shift. Additional information will be posted on TritonED. This will be the only extra credit opportunity for the quarter. This opportunity is worth **THREE** extra credit points.

Technology Policy

The technology policy of the class will be dependent on what activity we are doing. For lectures, laptops will not be allowed. However, for in-class writings and group work, you will need to use your laptops.

Class Etiquette

“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.”

WEEK ONE: January 7, 9, 11

Foundational Work

“Gender”

“Sexuality”

“Queer”

“Orientalism”

“Family”

WEEK TWO: January 14, 16, 18

Migration & Diaspora

“Introduction” & “Chapter 4: Prostitution Proliferates: ‘Mrs. Flirty’ and Willing Chinese Slaves” from *Discriminating Sex: White Leisure and the Making of the American “Oriental”*: Amy Sueyoshi

“Migrancy, Modernity, Mobility: Quotidian Struggles and Queer Diasporic Intimacy”: Martin F. Manalansan

WEEK THREE: January 23, 25

Familial Formations

“Introduction” from *Ingratitude: The Debt-Bound Daughter in Asian American Literature*: erin Khuê Ninh

“Are Second-Generation Korean-American Women Tiger Mothers?: Strategic, Transnational, and Resistant Responses to Racialized Mothering”: Miliann Kang

“Looking for Marriage in all the Wrong Places”: Code Switch (NPR)

(NO CLASS ON JANUARY 21—MLK DAY)

WEEK FOUR: January 28, 30 & February 1

Queer Intimacy and Intimate Ethnic Spaces

Spa Night (Andrew Ahn, 2016) *available to rent and stream via Amazon Prime

“Toward Queer Korean American Horizons: Diaspora, History, and Belonging”:

Margaret Rhee & Anthony Yoon-Shin Kim

“Chapter Three: Perversity, Contamination, and the Dangers of Queer Domesticity” from *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco’s Chinatown*: Nayan Shah

WEEK FIVE: February 4, 6, 8

Racialized Gendered Labor

“Introduction: The Fabric of Erasure” & “Tracing the Disappearance of the Yanggongju” from *Haunting Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War*: Grace M. Cho

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (webpage)

WEEK SIX: February 11, 13, 15

Racialized Migrating Transbody

For Today I Am A Boy: Kim Fu

"Narrating Immigration, Labor, and Trans Identity in Kim Fu's *For Today I Am a Boy*":
Danielle Seid

WEEK SEVEN: February 20, 22

Who do you mean by "me"?: Critiquing the #metoo Movement

What About #UsToo?: The Invisibility of Race in the #MeToo Movement: Angela
Onwuachi-Willig

"'Hijabs, Hoodies and Hotpants'; negotiating the 'Slut' in SlutWalk": Jason Lim &
Alexandra Fanghanel

"Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving: Anthropological Reflections on Cultural
Relativism and Its Others": Lila Abu-Lughod

(NO CLASS ON MONDAY—President's Day)

WEEK EIGHT: February 25, 27 & March 1st

Imperialism & Queer Asian Bodies

M. Butterfly: David Henry Hwang

"Heterosexuality in the Face of Whiteness: Divided Belief in *M. Butterfly*" from *Racial
Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America*: David L. Eng

WEEK NINE: March 4, 6, 8

Queer Femininity & Racialized Masculinity

"'Where's My Parade?': Margaret Cho and the Asian American Body in Space": Rachel
C. Lee

Queering the Pinup: History, Femmes, and Brooklyn": Amber Jamilla Musser

"What a Fraternity Hazing Death Revealed About the Painful Search for an Asian-
American Identity": Jay Caspian Kang

WEEK TEN: March 11, 13, 15

Asian American Feminism(s)

"Asian American Feminisms and Women of Color Feminisms: Radicalism, Liberalism,
and Invisibility" Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

"Decolonizing API: Centering Indigenous Pacific Islander Feminism" Stephanie
Nohelani Teves and Maile Arvin

