

Asian American History

HIST 5877
Professor Erika Lee
Spring 2007
Wednesdays, 3:35-5:30
Carlson School, 1-113

Office Hours:
Wednesdays 12:00-2:00
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Situated at the intersections of U.S. history, American Studies, Asian Studies, and Ethnic Studies, Asian American history explores and challenges some of the most important and recent intellectual developments, including racial formation, migration, imperialism, transnationalism, state formation, class, gender and sexuality, and interdisciplinarity.

This pro-seminar will introduce students to the key issues, theoretical frameworks, research, and methodologies of Asian American history. We will examine seminal texts that defined the field as well as the most recent scholarship that has contributed to the re-conceptualization of the Asian American past and present. We will consider Asian American history from comparative and transnational frameworks, asking, for example, how the field relates to Ethnic Studies and immigration history, as well as to Asian history and the history of the Americas. Our approach will be broad and interdisciplinary. Course reading will include monographs and articles, with approximately 250 pages of reading a week. This course is designed for graduate students from varying disciplines. Undergraduate students – especially Asian American Studies minors and students interested in pursuing graduate study – are welcome as well.

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12-2pm (778 Social Sciences) Please feel free to see me about any questions you may have related to the course. I am available by appointment as well.

GRADUATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Students will be required to write ten weekly response papers over the course of the semester. Response papers should be 1-2 pages and should:

- Summarize the authors' main arguments
- Identify and evaluate the authors' methodologies and theoretical and conceptual frameworks
- Identify major strengths and weaknesses in the work
- Raise any additional issues for discussion or critique

One constant goal should be to place the reading within the larger historiographical context of Asian American history/studies as well as the other readings that we have discussed in class. Students who are facilitating discussion should read all student response papers carefully. Other students should try to read the response papers, but it is not mandatory.

These papers will be due electronically by the TUESDAY (noon) of the week that we are to discuss the book/articles. You should e-mail your response paper to the class list and to myself.

2) Facilitate class discussion two times during the semester. Be prepared with questions and lesson goals. Read all student response papers for that week. Feel free to bring in supplementary materials (other books, articles, primary source documents) to enhance discussion.

3) One book review (5-7 pages long). Due in class the day that we discuss the book. Reviews should place the work in historiographical context or a broader literature review, briefly summarize main arguments, approaches, methodology, and point to strengths and weaknesses of book.

4) FINAL PROJECT – one historiographical paper or literature review on the topic of your choice (15 pages) OR one research paper (25-30 pages) for an extra course credit.

Historiographical essays should focus on a specific topic and survey key works relating to that topic to identify significant trends in methodology, theoretical frameworks, conceptualization and to suggest future areas of research. This is a good option for students preparing for preliminary examinations and who want an opportunity to survey the field.

Research papers can be on any topic of your choice relating to Asian American history. Papers should be based on original research. This is a good option for students who would like research experience and for those who are exploring dissertation topics. **DUE MONDAY, MAY 7 (noon) in my office.**

Class time: 100% discussion

Grade: 20% weekly responses; 30% final project, 20% book review; 30% class participation and discussion facilitation

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The assignments are the same for both undergraduate and graduate students. However, the reading load will be slightly reduced. I will give suggestions on which chapters to skim or ignore.

Assignments:

1) seven weekly response papers (see description above)

2) facilitate class discussion two times during the semester

3) one book review, 4-5 pages long

4) Final projects will be either 10 pages (historiographical or literature reviews) or 15-20 pages (research papers). Full participation will be expected of all students.

Class time: 100% discussion

Grade: 20% weekly responses; 30% final project, 20% book review; 30% class participation and discussion facilitation

COURSE SCHEDULE/READINGS

<p>Week 1 Jan. 17</p>	<p>Introduction</p>
<p>Week 2 Jan. 24</p>	<p>Definitions and Origins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction and articles by Him Mark Lai, Yuji Ichioka, Eileen Tamura, Henry Yu, and Cathy Ceniza Choy in <i>Amerasia Journal – Histories and Historians</i> v 26 n 1 (2000) <p>Recommended: Gary Okihiro, <i>The Columbia Guide to Asian American History</i> (Columbia University Press, 2001); Franklin Odo, <i>The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience</i> (Columbia University Press, 2002); Resources in the Asian Pacific American History Collective (http://www.apahistory.com/); Ronald Takaki, <i>Strangers from a Different Shore</i> (Boston: Back Bay Books 1998); David Palumbo-Liu, <i>Asian/American: Historical Crossings of a Racial Frontier</i> (Stanford Univ Press, 1999); Gary Okihiro, <i>Common Ground: Reimagining American History</i> (Princeton Univ Press, 2001)</p>
<p>Week 3 Jan. 31</p>	<p>Approaches: Transnationalism, Oral History, Gender and Sexuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "What is Transnational Asian American History?" Introduction, Comments, and all articles (Lee, Shibusawa, Yuh, Choy) <i>Journal of Asian American Studies</i> 10.3 - Shirley Hune, "Introduction: Through "Our" Eyes: Asian/Pacific Islander American Women's History" 1-15 and Gail Nomura, "Introduction: On Our Terms: Definitions and Contexts," 16-24, in Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura, <i>Asian/Pacific Islander American Women: A Historical Anthology</i> (NYU Press, 2003) - Alice Yang Murray, "Oral History Research, Theory, and Asian American Studies," from <i>Amerasia Journal – Histories and Historians</i> v 26 n 1 (2000): (105-118)
<p>Week 4 Feb. 7</p>	<p>Orientalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Articles from <i>Amerasia Journal's</i> special issue "Orientalism and the Legacy of Edward Said" (31:1 (2005): Russell Leong, "Before and After Orientalism: From the Oriental School to Asian American Studies" (v-xviii); Moustafa Bayoumi, "Our Work is of This World," (6-9); Lisa Lowe, "On Edward Said,"

	<p>(48-50); E. San Juan, Jr., "Edward Said's Use-Value for Asian American Cultural Projects," (61-63); Henry Yu, "Edward Said, Dispeller of Delusions," (67-72)</p> <p>- Excerpts from Robert G. Lee, <i>Orientalism: Asian Americans in Popular Culture</i> (Temple University Press, 1999): Preface, Introduction, ch. 4: Inner Dikes and Barred Zones, ch. 7: After LA, ch. 8: Disobedient Citizenship: Deconstructing the Oriental</p> <p>Recommended: Henry Yu, <i>Thinking Orientalism: Migration, Contact, and Exoticism in Modern America</i> (Oxford University Press, 2001); Jack Tchen, <i>New York Before Chinatown: Orientalism and the Shaping of American Culture, 1776-1882</i> (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001, paperback); and</p>
Week 5 Feb. 14	<p>Race and Labor</p> <p>Moon-Ho Jung, <i>Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation</i> (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006) 0801882818</p>
Week 6 Feb. 21	<p>Race and Exclusion</p> <p>Erika Lee, <i>At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943</i> (University of North Carolina Press, 2004, 2d. ed) 0807854484</p> <p>Recommended: Madeline Hsu, <i>Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home: Transnationalism and Migration Between the United States and South China 1882-1943</i></p>
Week 7 Feb. 28	<p>Migration and Empire</p> <p>Eiichiro Azuma, <i>Between Two Empires: Race, History, And Transnationalism In Japanese America</i> (Oxford University Press, 2005)</p>
Week 8 March 7	<p>Work on Individual Projects</p>
	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>
Week 9 March 21	<p>Asian Americans and U.S. National Identity</p> <p>Mae Ngai, <i>Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America</i> (Princeton University Press, 2004) 0691124299</p>
Week 10 March 28	<p>Cold War and Asian America</p> <p>Christina Klein, <i>Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961</i> (UC press, 2003) 1st ed 0520232305</p>

<p>Week 11 April 4</p>	<p>War and "Refuge Migration" <i>Ji-yeon Yuh, Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America</i> (New York University Press, 2004, paper) 0814796990</p>
<p>Week 12 April 11</p>	<p>Post-1965 Frameworks Catherine Ceniza Choy, <i>Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History</i> (Duke University Press, 2003) 082233089X</p>
<p>Week 13 April 18</p>	<p>Work on individual projects</p>
<p>Week 14 April 25</p>	<p>Refugee Migration/Communities <i>Aiwha Ong, Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, The New America</i> (University of CA Press, 2003) ISBN: 0520238249</p>
<p>Week 15 May 2</p>	<p>Asian American Studies and Asian Adoption Sara Dorow, <i>Transnational Adoption: A Cultural Economy of Race, Gender, and Kinship</i> (NYU Press, 2006) paper: 0814719724</p>