

Asian American History

Professor Ellen D. Wu

Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Departments of American Studies and History

Fall 2006

Course # 01 050 300 02 (American Studies)/ 01 512 391 02 (History)

Mondays and Thursdays, 10:55 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Cook Douglass Lecture Room 103

Office Hours Monday, 12:45-1:45 or by appointment, Ruth Adams Building Room 205E

Description

This course examines the history of Asian migration to and community formation in the United States from the mid-19th century to the present as part of the making of a “Pacific World.” Major themes to be explored include nation-building, racial formation, citizenship, and transnationalism. Special emphasis will be given to the analysis of primary sources as an introduction to the historian’s task of reading and interpreting the past.

Assignments

-Paper #1 15%

-Paper #2 15%

-Midterm 25%

-Final 35%

-Attendance and Participation 10%

Required Texts

-Madeline Yuan-yin Hsu, *Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home: Transnationalism and Migration Between the United States and South China, 1882-1943* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000).

-Carlos Bulosan, *America is In The Heart* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000 edition).

-John Okada, *No No Boy* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1992 edition).

-Nancy Abelmann and John Lie, *Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995).

-Selections from *Major Problems in Asian American History*, eds. Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003).

Other readings on the syllabus will be available for downloading through electronic reserve on the Rutgers Libraries website.

Films (to be shown in class)

-*The Cheat* (Cecil B. DeMille, 1915)

-*First Person Plural* (Deann Borshay Leim, 2001)

-*aka Don Bonus* (Spencer Nakasako and Sokly Ny, 1995)

-*Who Killed Vincent Chin?* (Renee Tajima-Peña and Christine Choy, 1988)

Week 1: Introduction: Asian American history in the context of the Pacific World
[Thursday, Sept 7]

Week 2: Early Chinese Immigration and the American West [Monday, Sept 11]
-Hsu, *Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home*, pp. 1-123

Week 2: The Beginnings of Exclusion [Thursday, Sept 14]
-Hsu, *Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home*, pp.124-186

Week 3: Japanese, Korean, and South Asian Immigration
[Monday, Sept 18]

- primary documents from Chapter 4, "Confronting Immigration Exclusion, 1860s-1920s," pp. 96-122, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*:
- Editor Henry George Supports Chinese Exclusion on Economic and Racial Grounds, 1869
- "The Tables Turned: You Sabe Him? Kealney [Kearny] Must Go!" 1877/1878
- Senator George Hoar Declares Chinese Exclusion Un-American, 1882
- Chinese Exclusion Act Suspends Immigration to the United States for Ten Years, 1882
- New York Chinese Merchants Oppose Renewal of Chinese Exclusion Act, 1892
- Wong Kim Ark, 1904
- Asiatic Exclusion League Argues for Excluding Japanese and Korean Immigration, 1908
- Spokane Labor Union Derides Anti-Japanese Prejudice, 1909
- Tokyo Government Protests Exclusion of Japanese Immigrants, 1924
- Ray E. Chase and S. G. Pandit Critique Supreme Court Ruling Excluding East Indians from Citizenship, 1926

Week 3: Life Under Exclusion and the Second Generation [Thursday, Sept 21]
-Bulosan, *America Is In The Heart*, Part II (pp. 97-189)

Week 4: Colonialism: Hawaii [Monday, Sept 25]
-Bulosan, *America Is In The Heart*, Part III (pp. 193-261)

Week 4: Colonialism: Philippines [Thursday, Sept 28]
-Bulosan, *America Is In The Heart*, Part IV (pp. 265-327)

Week 5: Orientalism [Monday, Oct 2]
PAPER #1 DUE

Film: *The Cheat*

Week 5: Orientalism [Thursday, Oct 5]
-Edward Said, "Orientalism," in *Postcolonial Studies Reader*, eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin (New York: Routledge), pp. 87-91.

-primary documents from Chapter 6, "Orientalism and Popular Culture," pp. 180-198, in *Major Problems in Asian American History: Documents and Essays*, eds. Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003):

- Writer Jack London Decries the New Yellow Peril, 1904
- Dance of the Igorrotes, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, 1904
- Filipino Immigrant Condemns Representation of Group, ca. 1924
- Anti-Japanese Monologue in Wallace Irwin's *Seed of the Sun*, 1926
- Writer Sui Seen [Sin] Far Reveals Private Lives of Chinese Merchant Wives, 1897
- Sociology Graduate Student Rose Hum Lee Lists American Beliefs About the Chinese, 1927
- MGM Studios Strategizes Advertisement for *The Painted Veil*, 1934
- Harold R. Issacs Addresses the Historical Significance of Pearl Buck's Portrayal of the Chinese, 1958

Week 6: World War II and Japanese American Internment [Monday, Oct 9]

-primary documents from Chapter 9, "War, Race, and the Meaning of Citizenship, 1941-1988," pp. 287-292, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*:

- Sociology Graduate Student Rose Hum Lee Describes How World War II Changed the Lives of Chinese Americans, 1942
 - Filipino Regiment Member Manuel Buaken Fights For Freedom, 1943
- Okada, *No No Boy*, pp. iii-xi and 1-143

Week 6: World War II and Japanese American Internment [Thursday, Oct 12]

-Okada, *No No Boy*, pp. 145-260

Week 7: MIDTERM [Monday, Oct 16]

Week 7: Cold War [Thursday, Oct 19]

-Film: *First Person Plural*

Week 8: Cold War [Monday, Oct 23]

-Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), Chapter 6, "The Cold War Chinese Immigration Crisis and the Confession Cases" (pp. 202-224 and notes, pp. 331-339)

-primary documents from Chapter 10, "Asian Americans and the Cold War, 1945-1965," pp. 321-325, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*:

- Novelist James Michener Portrays Romance Between Japanese Women and White Soldiers in *Sayonara*, 1953
- A Hollywood Poster Sells Interracial Love and the Exoticism of Japan in the Film *Sayonara*, 1957

Week 8: Southeast Asian Wars and Refugee Communities [Thursday, Oct 26]

- Nazil Kibria, "Power, Patriarchy, and Gender Conflict in the Vietnamese Immigrant Community," in *Contemporary Asian America: A Multidisciplinary Reader*, eds. Min Zhou and James V. Gatewood (New York University Press, 2000), pp. 431-445.
- Aihwa Ong, *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, The New America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), Chapter 9, "Guns, Gangs, and Doughnut Kings," pp. 229-249 and notes, pp. 314-316.

Week 9: Southeast Asian Wars and Refugee Communities [Monday, Oct 30]

- Film: *aka Don Bonus*

Week 9: Model Minority [Thursday, Nov 2]

- William Petersen, "Success Story, Japanese American Style," *New York Times Magazine*, 9 January 1966, 20-21, 33, 36, 38,40-41, 43
- "Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S.," *U.S. News and World Report*, 26 December 1966, pp. 73-76
- "Orientals Find Bias Is Down Sharply in U.S.," *New York Times*, December 13, 1970
- "Asian-Americans: A 'Model Minority,'" *Newsweek*, 6 December 1982, pp. 40-51
- David A. Bell, "The Triumph of Asian-Americans: America's Greatest Success Story," *New Republic*, 15 and 22 July 1985, pp. 24-31.

Week 10: Asian American Movement [Monday, Nov 6]

- Amy Uyematsu, "The Emergence of Yellow Power in America" in *Roots: An American Reader*, eds. Amy Tachiki et al, (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1971), pp. 9-13.
- Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s," in *Contemporary Asian America*, pp. 80-112.
- "Yellow Power," *Giant Robot*, Spring 1998, pp. 61-81.

Week 10: Special Lecture on Jade Snow Wong and *Fifth Chinese Daughter*

[Thursday, Nov 9]

- selections from Jade Snow Wong, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* (New York: Harper, 1950).

note: this class session will meet in Ruth Adams Building Room 001

Week 11: 1965 and the Transformation of Asian America [Monday, Nov 13]

- Catherine Ceniza Choy, "From Exchange Visitor to Permanent Resident: Reconsidering Filipino Nurse Migration as a Post-1965 Phenomenon," in *Re/collecting Early Asian America: Essays in Cultural History*, ed. Josephine Lee, Imogene L. Lim, and Yuko Matsukawa (Temple University Press, 2003), pp. 158-173.
- Sandhya Shukla, "New Immigrants, New Forms of Transnational Community: Post-1965 Indian Migrations," *Amerasia Journal* 25:3 (1999/2000):19-36.

Week 11: Racism and Violence [Thursday, Nov 16]

- Yen Le Espiritu, *Asian American Pan-Ethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*, (Temple University Press, 1992), Chapter 6.
- “A Government Report on the Murders of Vincent Chin and Jim Loo, 1992,” pp. 427-429, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*
- Deborah N. Misir, “The Murder of Navroze Mody: Race, Violence, and the Search for Order,” in *Contemporary Asian America: A Multidisciplinary Reader*, eds. Min Zhou and James V. Gatewood (New York University Press, 2000), pp. 501-517.

Film: *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*

Week 12: Racism and Violence [Monday, Nov 20]

PAPER #2 DUE

Week 12: Asian American Youth Culture [Tuesday, Nov 21—note change in day]

- Sunaina Marr Maira, “Mixed Desires: Second-Generation Indian Americans and the Politics of Youth Culture,” in *Displacements and Diasporas: Asians in the Americas*, eds. Wanni W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005), pp. 227-247.

Week 13: Race, Class, and the American Dream [Monday, Nov 27]

- Abelman and Lie, *Blue Dreams*

Week 13: New Challenges to Identity and Activism [Thursday, Nov 30]

- L. Ling-Chi Wang, “Asian Americans and Debates About Affirmative Action,” pp. 450-456, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*
- Urvashi Vaid, “Inclusion, Exclusion, and Occlusion: The Queer Idea of Asian Pacific American-ness,” *Amerasia Journal* 25:3 (1999/2000): 1-16.
- primary documents from Chapter 13, “Panethnicity, Asian American Activism, and Identity, 1965-2000,” pp. 437-441, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*:
 - Captain Ted W. Lieu Is Asked If He Is In the Chinese Air Force, 1999
 - Lawyer Angela E. Oh Describes the Significance of the Government Prosecution of Los Alamos Scientist Wen Ho Lee, 2000
 - Accused Spy Wen Ho Lee Describes His First Month of Imprisonment, 2000
 - Judge James A. Parker Apologizes to Wen Ho Lee for the Way He Was Treated by the Executive Branch, 2000

Week 14: Asian America and September 11 [Monday, Dec 4]

- Leti Volpp, “The Citizen and the Terrorist,” *UCLA Law Review* 49: (2002): 1575-1600.
- Tram Nguyen, *We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant Communities After 9/11* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2005), Introduction and Chapter One, “Becoming Suspects: Brooklyn and New Jersey” (pp. xiii-xxiii, 1-19).
- Helen Zia, “Oh Say Can You See? Post September 11,” in *Asian Americans on War & Peace*, eds. Russell C. Leong and Don T. Nakanishi (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 2002), pp. 1-10.

Week 14: The Current Immigration Debates [Thursday, Dec 7]

-readings TBA

Week 15: Conclusion [Monday, Dec 11]

*****TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE FRIDAY, Dec 15, 11 AM in American Studies Office (Ruth Adams Building 024). LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.*****