Asians have been in the US since the mid-19th century before “Asian American” emerged as a term for a coalition of many American voices in the 1960s. What then is /Asian American/ Literature? How does it remap our understanding of “America” and citizenship? The course will emphasize close reading of texts from the Yellow Power Movement of the 1970s to the various cultural and literary challenges since then posed in terms of gender, sexuality, migration and colonialism. We will look at the depictions and issues raised by novels and filmic texts by and about Asian/Asian Americans and how these issues have evolved and been challenged through the 21st century. The class emphasizes close reading analysis and writing.

Maxine Hong Kingston, /Woman Warrior/

R. Zamora Linmark, /Rolling the R’s/

Bharati Mukherjee, /Jasmine/

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, /Dictee/

Lois Ann Yamanaka, /Blu’s Hanging/

Jessica Hagedorn, /Dogeaters/

Brian Ascalon Rolley, /American Son/

Harold and Kumar, Joy Luck Club, Flower Drum Song, among others