Overview

In the Asian American Studies Learning Community (AASLC), we will explore and learn about the diverse array of peoples of Asian descent in the Americas, including West, South, Southeast, and East Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Throughout the semester, we will examine, reflect upon, and discuss representations of Asian Americans in literature, history, politics, film, scholarship, current events, and popular culture.

The majority of class meetings will consist of: (1) a screening and discussion of a part of a documentary film; (2) a conversation about the reading(s) assigned for the week; and (3) a visit by Rutgers faculty and staff who are committed to Asian American studies and students (and, on the last day of class, by two special guests!).

The goal of the AASLC is to enhance your engagement with the issues presented in the course materials, rather than have these materials be “burdensome.” You should be prepared to devote at least 2 to 3 hours of reading and reflection each week.

Goals

- To obtain knowledge about a diverse range of historical and present-day issues that pertains—including explicit and implicit ways—to Asian Americans.
- To engage with the course materials (readings and documentaries) and with visitors to the AASLC.
- To develop an ability to compare and contrast representations in various social and historical contexts and across genres and media.
- To propose and complete an oral history or ethnographic group final project (with the option of presenting the project at the Third Annual Undergraduate Symposium on Asians in the Americas and the Diaspora in April 2013).

Requirements

This is a discussion course. Attendance and productive participation are important in our work during class meetings.

- **Attendance and participation.** Attendance is mandatory, as is active reading, listening, and participation. Please come to each class having read and reflected on the readings for the day.
- **Group Final Project.** Working in groups of 2 or 3, you will collaborate on an ethnographic or oral history project.
- **Readings.** You must bring your readings to class (either in print or digital format). All readings must be completed in advance of each week’s meeting.
Readings

All readings are accessible through SAKAI and are listed according to the dates they are assigned.

Fiction

Reports
- Pew Research Center, “The Rise of Asian Americans” (2012) [“Overview” and “Chapter 1”; 66 pp]

Scholarly Articles
- Rina Benmayor, “Contested Memories of Place: Representations of Salinas’ Chinatown” (2010) [9 pp]
- L. Ling-chi Wang, “Model Minority, High-tech Coolies, and Foreign Spies: Asian Americans in Science and Technology, with Special Reference to the Case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee” (2007) [10 pp]

Films
- S. Leo Chiang, A Village Called Versailles (2009) [15 min; condensed version]
- Christine Choy and Renée Tajima-Peña, Who Killed Vincent Chin? (1987) [87 min]
- Jason DaSilva, Lest We Forget (2003) [57 min]
- Fahm Fong Saeyang and Richard Hall, Death of a Shaman (2003) [60 min]
- Thet Sambath and Rob Lemkin, Enemies of the People (2009) [30 min]
- Renée Tajima-Peña, My America . . . or Honk if You Love Buddha (1997) [87 min]

Week 1
M 9/10 Welcome and Introductions
 Locke In-class screening: 1700% Project (and reflections on 9/11)
 Locke Homework for 9/17:
 Locke Complete reading(s)

Week 2
M 9/17 Locke In-class screening: Lest We Forget (entire film 57 min)
 Locke Reading(s):
 Locke Pew Research Center, “The Rise of Asian Americans” [“Overview” and “Chapter 1”; 66 pp]
 Locke Class visit:
 Locke Rick H. Lee (English and American Studies) discussion about film & articles
 Locke Homework for 9/24:
 Locke Complete reading(s)
Week 3
M 9/24
In-class screening: My America . . . or Honk if You Love Buddha
Reading(s):
Class visit:
- Allan Punzalan Isaac (American Studies and English)
- Sylvia Chan-Malik (American Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies)
Homework for 10/1:
- Complete reading(s) & Reflect on Sikh Temple shooting

Week 4
M 10/1
In-class screening: My America . . . or Honk if You Love Buddha (con’t) + W. Kamau Bell “Sikh vs. Sheik”
Reading(s):
- Pew Research Center, “Asian Americans: A Mosaic of Faiths” [“Foreword” and “Overview”; [38 pp]
Homework for 10/8:
- Complete reading(s)
- Watch film Who Killed Vincent Chin (available online)
- Write 2pp response about the film
- Begin to think about your group final project

Co-curricular Programming Opportunity (Strongly Recommended)

Discussion on “Asian Americans in an Age of Terror: Race, Religious Freedom, and Civil Liberties in Post 9/11 U.S.”
with Sylvia Chan-Malik, James Yee, and Rutgers faculty, students, and staff

Monday, October 1 | 8 pm
Rutgers Student Center Multipurpose Room
126 College Avenue

Week 5
M 10/8 (meeting at Asian American Cultural Center on Livingston 49 Joyce Kilmer)
At home-class screening: Who Killed Vincent Chin? Due: 2pp response to the film
Reading(s):
- L. Ling-chi Wang, “Model Minority, High-tech Coolies, and Foreign Spies: Asian Americans in Science and Technology, with Special Reference to the Case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee” [10 pp]
Discussion at AACC with:
- Ji Hyun Lee (Asian American Cultural Center)
- Merz Lim (Asian American Cultural Center)
Homework for 10/15:
- Complete Readings
- Continue to think about your group final project
Week 6
M 10/15

-Co-curricular Programming Opportunity (Recommended)

Asian American Cultural Center Open House
Friday, October 5 | 3 pm
Asian American Cultural Center
49 Joyce Kilmer Avenue
Livingston Campus

In-class NPR podcasts: Claudio Sanchez Chinese Immigrants’ Kids Play Balancing Role; At School Lower Expectations of Dominican Kids; Story Corps oral histories

Reading(s):
- Rina Benmayor. “Contested Memories of Place: Representations of Salinas’ Chinatown” [9 pp]

Class visit:
- Kathy López (Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies and History) Nicholas Molnar (ROHA)

Homework for 10/22:
- Continue to think about your group final project
- Complete online research on oral history, ethnography, digital storytelling, and archives:
  - Sharon A. Fordham Multimedia Lab (Douglass Library) http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/fordham/fordham.shtml
  - Rutgers Oral History Archives http://oralhistory.rutgers.edu/
  - Asian American Art Oral History Project (DePaul University) http://via.library.depaul.edu/oral_his_series/
  - South Asian American Digital Archive http://www.saadigitalarchive.org/
  - Art Asia America http://www.artasiamerica.org/
  - Talking History: Aural History Productions (University of Albany) http://www.talkinghistory.org/
  - Stories for Change http://storiesforchange.net/
  - StoryCorps http://storycorps.org/
  - Center for Digital Storytelling http://www.storycenter.org/
  - Veterans History Project (Library of Congress) http://www.loc.gov/vets/
  - Archives of American Art http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews
  - Getting Word: African American Families of Monticello http://www.monticello.org/getting-word
Week 7
M 10/22
NOTE: Class meets at the Sharon A. Fordham Multimedia Lab at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library (8 Chapel Drive)

☞ Class visit:
▪ Kayo Denda (Rutgers University Libraries)
☞ Group final project discussion
☞ Homework for 10/29:
▪ Begin to finalize your plans and goals for your group final project

Week 8
M 10/29
Meet at Fordham Lab
☞ In-class screening: Death of a Shaman
☞ Group final project discussion & Possible SKYPE with Story Corps
☞ Homework for 11/5:
▪ Continue to work on your group final project

New York City Field Trip (Mandatory)

Matinee Performance of Ayad Akhtar’s Play, Disgraced

Sunday, November 4 | 12:00 – 6:00 pm
Lincoln Center Theater, New York City

Week 9
M 11/5
Meet at Fordham Lab
☞ In-class screening: Death of a Shaman (con’t)
☞ Group final project
☞ Homework for 11/12:
▪ Continue to work on your group final project & questions to ask your interviewees
▪ Complete reading(s)

Week 10
M 11/12
Meet at Fordham Lab start working on the projects
☞ Reading(s):
☞ Class visit:
▪ Anjali Nerlekar (South Asian Languages and Literatures) & Andy Urban (ROHA)
☞ Homework for 11/19:
▪ Work towards completing your group final project
▪ Complete reading(s)
▪ Prepare for the focus group: reflect on the course and the past two months of class
Co-curricular Programming Opportunity (Strongly Recommended)

Writers at Rutgers Reading Series: Gish Jen  
Wednesday, November 14

Open Session Student Q&A with Author  
4:00 pm  
Location TBD or likely Murray Hall

Dinner with Author  
5:30 pm  
The Rutgers Club  
199 College Avenue

Reading  
8:00 pm  
Rutgers Student Center Multipurpose Room  
126 College Avenue

---

**Week 11**  
M 11/19  
Focus Group with Learning Communities Director: Location TBD

**Week 12**  
M 11/26  
tó In-class screening: *Enemies of the People*  
tó Group final project  
tó Homework for 12/3:  
• Complete your group final project for presentation

**Week 13**  
M 12/3  
tó GROUP FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

---

Co-curricular Programming Opportunity (Recommended)

DISORIENTATIONS Working Group at the Institute for Research on Women  
Discussion of *Stranger Intimacy* with Nayan Shah (University of Southern California)

Wednesday, December 5 | 4:30 – 6:00 pm OR Thursday, December 6 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
Institute for Research on Women  
160 Ryders Lane, Seminar Room (2nd floor)
Institute for Women and Art: The Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, and Society
Discussion on “Fashioning the Cultural Impact of the Islamic Diaspora”
with Fawzia Afzal-Khan (Montclair State University); Heather Marie Akou (Indiana University); Ousseina Alidou
(Rutgers University); Pallabi Chakraborty (Swarthmore College);
Sylviane Diouf (Schomburg Center); Fakhri Haghani (Rutgers University);
and Meheli Sen (Rutgers University)
Thursday, December 6 | 3:00 – 7:00 pm
Rutgers Student Center Multipurpose Room
126 College Avenue

Co-curricular Programming Opportunity (Recommended)

Week 14
M 12/10 📽️ In-class screening: Enemies of the People [con’t]
余额 Class visit:
- Cathy Schlund-Vials (Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies and the
Director of the Asian American Studies Institute, University of Connecticut)
- praCh Ly (Cambodian American Rapper; Mujestic)
- Celebratory Dinner for Inaugural AAS Learning Community

Co-curricular Programming Opportunity (Strongly Recommended)

Celebratory Dinner 5pm
Enemies of the People: Remembering the Cambodian Genocide on Human Rights Day
Performance and Discussion with praCh Ly and Cathy Schlund-Vials
Monday, December 10th | 8:00 pm
Rutgers Student Center Multipurpose Room
126 College Avenue