Introduction to Asian American Studies
Center for Asian American Studies and Department of American Studies

Professor A. Naomi Paik
naomi.paik@austin.utexas.edu
Office Location: Burdine 440

This interdisciplinary course seeks to offer a critical introduction to the multiple, heterogeneous histories, cultural productions, and issues that shape the study of Asians in the U.S. By reading a range of historical, legal, theoretical, and cultural texts, we will explore issues and employ methodologies central to the field of Asian American Studies. What are the formative experiences and histories that define Asian America? What is the relationship of Asian Americans to the U.S. nation-state? Who is included in the category "Asian American"? Who/what decides? How have conceptions of Asian America shifted over time? In approaching these questions, the course will focus broadly on the topics of formations of identity and community, immigration, citizenship, gender, sexuality, labor, and (post)colonialisms in Asian America. As we move through the course, our perspective will becoming increasingly transnational in scope, from a focus on major concepts and issues of Asian America in a domestic context to a broader consideration to the ways in which migrations, war, imperialism, and global capitalism have affected the lives of Asians in the U.S. historically and in contemporary times.

I reserve the right to alter the syllabus at any point during the semester.

Course Requirements
Attendance, Participation, and In-class Quizzes: Although this course is larger than a seminar, we will still engage in critical dialogue with each other in every class meeting. It is therefore important to come to every session, having prepared to discuss the week's assignments. Your pop quizzes, midterm, and final will draw from both readings and lectures. All quizzes will be given during lecture and will **not** be announced. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes. These will be based on lectures and readings students are responsible for up to the time the pop quiz is given. 15%

Two Short Papers: You will write two short papers during the term. We will discuss the paper topics in more detail (and with more examples) 2 weeks prior to the due date.
The **first paper** (4-5 pages) is due during week 5. For this paper, you will find a primary source document (for example, a contemporary or historical newspaper article, film, cartoon, political speech, or other archival document) that represents Asians in the U.S. as either yellow peril or model minority. You will read and analyze this document using the readings we cover in class. 20%
The **second paper** (5 pages) is due during week 11. This assignment asks you to consider the limits of the U.S.'s opening of immigration restriction and of U.S. citizenship. The case of Japanese American internment is just one example of these limits for Asians in the U.S. For this paper, you will find and examine another specific moment/event in Asian American history or culture that highlights the contradictions of Asian American access to immigration and citizenship. 20%

Midterm: In class, week 8: 20%

The midterm will be administered during lecture. A review will be given before the midterm. The midterm will cover materials up until the exam is given. Midterm make-ups will only be offered to students with documented,official university excuses. Students should contact their Teaching Assistant as soon as possible *before the examination* to coordinate the schedule for the make-up midterm. If provided, the midterm make-up exam will be proctored only once. *Please note that the Health Center does not provide medical excuses*; contact your Emergency Dean to document illness.

Final Exam: Scheduled during exam week: 25%
The final will cover materials for the entire semester. A review will be given before the final exam. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR THE FINAL EXAM.

A Note about Deadlines: Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a Dean's Excuse. If you absolutely cannot turn your assignments in on time, please email me beforehand. Late papers will be graded down for each day they are late.

CLASS POLICIES

Blackboard: Blackboard will be used to upload important documents and any relevant information for the course.

Email: Please limit your emails to important and necessary matters. Many answers to your questions may be in the syllabus or on compass. Please consult these sources before emailing your Teaching Assistants, regarding "quick questions." We will not answer emails which inquires about information found in these places. Please also use AAS 100 as the subject heading in your email inquires.

Lecture and Section Etiquette: Please be prompt to both lecture and section and please do not leave early, or pack up before class is over. Please do not sleep or chat among yourselves (unless asked to engage in a discussion). **This class is laptop and mobile phone-free**. **Make sure to silence or turn off all mobile phones, beepers, alarms**, or any other gadgets that may disrupt others during class time. If your phone rings during class, I get to answer it.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will likely result in failure of the course. **You are responsible for knowing the definitions and penalties for Academic Dishonesty**, which include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, academic interference, etc. The University of Texas functions under an honor code and has strict standards for academic integrity (**http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php**). According to these standards, using material from an un-cited source as if it were your own is an academic violation and not to be tolerated. (It is tantamount to a theft of ideas.) ***Ignorance about the code will not serve as an excuse for infractions.*** Plagiarizers are treated as violators of the code of academic integrity; their work is sent to the Dean's Office where it is kept on record, and repeat offenders are usually suspended or even asked to leave the university. For precise details about what "plagiarism" means and how it is dealt with, please consult the following web address:
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity2.html

Resources

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the course. Please stop by my office hours if you need clarification on or would like to discuss the readings, class discussions, or assignments.

Library Resources
PG Moreno, the American Studies librarian at PCL, is happy to help you with any research needs or questions you may have. You can contact him at pgmoreno@austin.utexas.edu.

Sanger Learning and Career Center
In addition to counseling students on careers and choosing majors, the Sanger Learning and Career Center provides advising to students regarding study, writing, and reading skills; effective time management; and managing issues with concentration or attention in class.
http://www.lifelearning.utexas.edu/index.html

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Any student who may feel that she or he needs an accommodation based on the impact of a disability needs to provide an accommodation request letter from the Services for Students with Disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd. Please note that letters from DRES offer suggestions for accommodation that may or may not fit with the structure of this class. In order to best accommodate specific needs, please meet with me as early as possible to develop an accommodation plan.

Religious Holy Days
You must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class or assignment, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy
Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE
The core values of UT Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect towards peers and community.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will likely result in failure of the course. All students are responsible for knowing the definitions and penalties for Academic Dishonesty, which include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, academic interference, etc. The University of Texas functions under an honor code and has strict standards for academic integrity (**http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php**). According to these standards, using material from an un-cited source as if it were your own is an academic violation and not to be tolerated. (It is tantamount to a theft of ideas.) *Ignorance about the code will not serve as an excuse for infractions*. Plagiarizers are treated as violators of the code of academic integrity; their work is sent to the Dean's Office where it is kept on record, and repeat offenders are usually suspended or even asked to leave the university. For precise details about what "plagiarism" means and how it is dealt with, please consult the following web address:
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity2.html

MAJORING OR MINORING IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Asian American Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to the social, cultural, and political study of people living in America of Asian descent. Topics include, but are not limited to, studies of immigration, diaspora, law and legislation, community formation and civil rights. Asian American Studies focuses mainly on those that take place in the United States and Canada. We believe that Asian American Studies not only offers insight into Asian American experiences, but into the experience of all communities who have experienced immigration and acculturation in America.

A major or minor in Asian American Studies offers students excellent preparation for many careers, such as teaching, law, public policy, social work, labor organizing, journalism, public health, etc. For more information, please visit the Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS), located in the Geography Building, GRG 220. GRG is near the corner of 24th Street/Whitis, across from the Littlefield House. Should you have questions, contact the CAAS office at 512-232-9468 or speak with me.

Required Texts:
All texts are on reserve at the library. All other readings can be found on reserve, in the course packet, or on the class website.

Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*

Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*
Kandice Chuh, *Imagine Otherwise: On Asian Americanist Critique*
Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Schedule:

Unit I: Mapping the Field

Week 1
Tuesday, January 18: Introductions
**Sucheng Chan, Chronology of Asian American History
Film in class: *San Francisco State: On Strike*

Thursday, January 20: Who/What are Asian/Asian Americans?
Gary Okihiro, "When and Where I Enter" (Wu and Song 3-20)
**Robert Chang, "Introduction: Becoming Asian American" from *Disoriented: Asian Americans, Law, and the Nation-State* (pgs. 1-10)

Week 2
Tuesday, January 25: Why Asian American Studies?: The Asian American Movement
Yen Le Espiritu, *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities* – Chapter 2: Coming Together: The Asian American Movement. **READ ONLY P.31-52** Starting from: "The Construction of a Pan- Asian Ethnicity" (pages 19-30 are optional)
Glenn Omatsu, "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation" (Wu and Song 164-197)
Film in class: *Fall of the I-Hotel*

Thursday, January 27: Asian American Studies
Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics* – Chapter 2: "Canon, Institutionalization, Identity: Asian American Studies" (pgs 37-59)

Week 3
Tuesday, February 1: What is Race?
Michael Omi and Howard Winant, Racial Formation in the United States – Introduction, Chapter 4: "Racial Formation" (53-76)
Michael Omi and Howard Winant, "On the Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race" (Wu and Song 199-208)

Thursday, February 3: Race and Asian America
Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics* – Introduction: Immigration, Citizenship, and Racialization: Asian American Critique (pgs. 1-36)
Clips from film *Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision* by Frieda Lee Mock (in class)

Recommended:
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* – Chapters 1-3
Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein, *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities* – Chapter 3

Week 4: Yellow Peril and Model Minorities
Tuesday, February 8:
Gary Okihiro, *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture* – Chapter 5: "Perils of the Body and Mind"
Film in class: *The Mask of Fu Manchu* (dir. Charles Brabin, 68 min)
Charlie Chan

Thursday, February 10:
U.S. News and World Report, "Success Story of One Minority Group" (Wu & Song, 158-163)
**Keith Osajima, "Asian Americans as the Model Minority: An Analysis of the Popular Press Image in the 1960s and 1980s" in *A Companion to Asian American Studies*, edited by Kent A. Ono (215-226)
Vijay Prashad, "Of the Origin of Desis and Some Principles of State Selection" (pgs. 69-82) from *The Karma of Brown Folk*

In class: Margaret Cho, "I'm the One That I Want" excerpts

Recommended:
Robert G. Lee, *Orientals: Asian Americans in Popular Culture* – Introduction, Chapter 5: The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority, Chapter 6: The Model Minority as Gook
Mari J. Matsuda, *Where is Your Body?: And Other Essays on Race, Gender, and Law* – Chapter 13
Lisa Sun-Hee Park, "Continuing Significance of the Model Minority Myth: The Second Generation"

Week 5: Gender and Nationalism: China Men versus Woman Warriors
<u>Tuesday, February 15</u>
**Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior* (selections) -- "No Name Woman" and "White Tigers"
**Frank Chin, *The Big Aiiieeeee!: An Anthology of Chinese and Japanese American Literature* – Introduction (Recommended: "Come All Ye Asian American Writers of the Real and Fake")
**Frank Chin and Jeffrey Paul Chan, "The Most Popular Book in China" in *Maxine Hong Kingston's Woman Warrior: A Case Book* by Sau-ling Cynthia Wong

<u>Thursday, February 17</u>
King Kok Cheung, "The Woman Warrior versus The Chinaman Pacific: Must a Chinese American Critic Choose between Feminism and Heroism?" (Wu and Song, 306-323)
View selections in class: Curtis Choy, *What's Wrong with Frank Chin?* (2005) (film; 97 minutes)

Unit II: Inclusion/Exclusion: Immigration and Citizenship

Week 6: Closing the Gates: Exclusion
Paper 1 Due Monday, February 21!

Tuesday, February 22
** Page Law Act (1879) – available from http://w3.uchastings.edu/wingate/pageact.htm
** Chinese Exclusion Acts (1882) – available from http://www.ourdocuments.gov/print_friendly.php?flash=true&page=transcript&doc=47&title=Transcript+of+Chinese+Exclusion+Act+(1882)
Bill Ong Hing, "The Undesirable Asian" in *Defining America through Immigration Policy* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004), 28-50,

Thursday, February 24
**Erika Lee, "The Chinese Exclusion Example: Race, Immigration, and American Gatekeeping, 1882-1924," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 21, no. 3 (Spring 2002): 36-62.
Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* – Introduction

Recommended
Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943* – Introduction, Chapters 1, 3

 Film in class: *Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors, Settlers*

Week 7
Tuesday, March 1: Legal Challenges to Exclusion
Ozawa v. United States (1922) – available from *The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience.*
United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind (1923) – available from *The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience.*
**Ian Haney Lopez, *White By Law: The Legal Construction of Race* – Chapter 4: *Ozawa* and *Thind* (pgs 56-78)

Thursday, March 3: Resistance to Racialization and Disfranchisement
Jane Singh, "The Gadar Party: Political Expression of an Immigrant Community" in Wu and Song 35-46

Week 8
Tuesday, March 8: Opening the Gates and 1965
**Neil Gotanda, "Toward Repeal of Asian Exclusion," in *Asian Americans and Congress: A Documentary History* (pgs. 309-337)
**Eithne Luibheid, "The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act: An 'End' to Exclusion?" *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (1997)

Recommended:

**Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* – Chapter 7: The Liberal Critique and Reform of Immigration Policy (pgs. 227-263)

Bill Ong Hing, *Making and Remaking Asian America through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990* – Chapter 3: Social Forces Unleashed After 1965

Leti Volpp, "'Obnoxious to Their Very Nature': Asian Americans and Constitutional Citizenship," *Asian Law Journal* 8.71

Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*

Thursday, March 10: **MIDTERM EXAM**

SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 9: Internment and the Limits of Citizenship

Tuesday, March 22

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Executive Order 9066 (Wu & Song, 93-94)

C. B. Munson, "Japanese on the West Coast" (Wu & Song, 84-92)

Life Magazine, "How to Tell the Japs from the Chinese," December 22, 1941

Time Magazine, "How to tell your Friends from the Japs"

Thursday, March 24

Korematsu v. United States (1944)

Hirabayashi v. United States (1943)

Hisaye Yamamoto, "The Legend of Miss Sassagawara" (Wu and Song 124-135)

**Hisaye Yamamoto, "Wilshire Bus" in Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories

Week 10: Internment and the Politics of Reparations

Tuesday, March 29

**Chris Iijima, "Reparations and the Model Minority Ideology of Acquiescence: The Necessity to Refuse to Return to the Original Humiliation," *Boston College Law Review*

Film in class: Rea Tajiri, *History and Memory*

Thursday, March 31

**Yauku Takezuwa, "Children of Inmates: The Effects of the Redress Movement among Third Generation Japanese Americans," *Qualitative Sociology, VoL 14, No. 1, 1991*

Continue Rea Tajiri, *History and Memory*

Unit III: Shifting Terrains

Week 11: Violence

Tuesday, April 5: Hate Crimes and the Global Economy

Sucheng Chan, "Hostility and Violence" (Wu & Song, 47-66)

**Helen Zia, "Detroit Blues" in *Asian American Dreams*

In class: Christine Choy & Renee Tajima Pena (dir), *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* (87 min)

Thursday, April 7: (Violent) Limits of Multiculturalism: L.A., 4/29

Lisa Ikemoto, Traces of the Master Narrative in the Story of African American-Korean American Conflict: How We Constructed 'Los Angeles', 66 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 401 (1993)

Anna Deavere Smith, selections from *Twilight: Los Angeles*

Recommended:

Vijay Prashad, *Everybody was Kung Fu Fighting* – Chapter 5

Dai-Sil Kim-Gibson, *Sa-i-gu*

Chang-Rae Lee, *Native Speaker*

Edward Chang, "America's First Multiethnic 'Riots'" (BB)

King-Kok Cheung, "(Mis)interpretations and (In)justice: The 1992 Los Angeles 'Riots" and 'Black Korean Conflict"

Ty Pak, "The Court Interpreter"

Week 12: U.S. Imperialism and Its Challenges to Asian America

*****Paper Two due Monday, April 11!***

Tuesday, April 12

**Oscar Campomanes, "New Formations of Asian American Studies and the Questions of U.S. Imperialism," in *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (1997)

**Kandice Chuh, *Imagine Otherwise: On Asian Americanist Critique* – Preface, Introduction, Conclusion

Thursday, April 14: Postwar Reckonings: Indochinese Refugees

Linda Trinh Vo, "The Vietnamese American Experience: From Dispersion to the Development of Post-Refugee Communities" (Wu and Song 290-306)

Spencer Nakasako, *A.K.A. Don Bonus* (film)

Recommended

le thi diem thuy, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*

Aiwha Ong, *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America* – Chapter 3

Suzette Min, "Remains to be Seen: Reading the Works of Dean Sameshima and Khanh Vo," in *Loss: The Politics of Mourning*, ed. David L. Eng and David Kazanjian

Week 13: Transnationalism and Diaspora

Tuesday, April 19:

Masao Miyoshi, "A Borderless World?: From Colonialism to Transnationalism and the Decline of the Nation-State (Wu and Song, 209-232)

******Arif Dirlik, "Asians on the Rim: Transnational Capital and Local Community in the Making of Contemporary Asian America," *Amerasia Journal* 22:3 (1996): 1-24

Thursday, April 21: Flexible Citizenship

**Aihwa Ong, "On the Edge of Empires: Flexible Citizenship among Chinese in Diaspora," *Positions* 1:3 (1993):745-788

**Amitava Kumar, *Bombay—London—New* York – "Digital City" (pgs.186-208)

Week 14: Asian America in a Post-9/11 World

Tuesday, April 24

Leti Volpp, "The Citizen and the Terrorist" in *UCLA L. Rev.* 49 (2002)

Muneer Ahmad, "Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day after 9/11"

Moustafa Bayoumi. Preface and Chapter 1. *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America*. New York: Penguin Press, 2008.

Thursday, April 26

Natsu Taylor Saito, "Symbolism Under Siege: Japanese American Redress and the Racing of Arab Americans as Terrorists," *Asian Law Journal* 8:1 (2001)

Brief of Amicus Curiae Fred Korematsu in Support of Petitioners (*Rasul v. Bush*)

Recommended:

Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Sunaina Maira, Missing – selections

Jasbir Puar, Terrorist Assemblages -- Introduction

Jasbir Puar and Amit S. Rai, "Monster, Terrorist, Fag: The War on Terrorism and the Production of Docile Patriots" (BB)

Inderpal Grewal, "Transnational America: Race and Gender After 9/11"

Mosin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

Week 15: New Directions

Thursday, April 3

Gary Okihiro, "The Death of Ethnic Studies"

Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics* – Chapter 3: "Heterogeneity, Hybridigy, Multiplicity: Marking Asian American Difference"

Thursday, April 5

Final Review

This course contains ideas that are illegal in the state of Arizona: todos somos Arizona.

For more information on Arizona's HB 2281, please visit:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/49leg/2r/bills/hb2281p.pdf

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/30/arizona-ethnic-studies-cl_n_558731.html