Syllabus

Introduction to Asian American History

Fall 2016

Instructor Information
Dr. Sam Vong
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Office phone: 512-471-4073
Office: GAR 0.134
Office Hours: Tue 3-5 pm (and by appointment)

Course Information
HIS 317L (Unique #39130)
AAS 312 (Unique #35810)
Class meeting times: TTh 12:30 – 2 PM
Room: UTC 1.144

Course Description
This course introduces students to the histories of people of Asian descent in the United States, from the late sixteenth century to the present. Through historical works, literature, films, primary sources, and popular culture, students will explore the making of Asian America as a dynamic site of identity construction, political protest, community formation, social movement building, and a vibrant field of intellectual and historical inquiry. The course will focus on four broad themes: 1) the causes and effects of migration and settlement in the development of Asian American communities; 2) the role that Asian Americans have played in shaping U.S. social, political, and cultural institutions; 3) the diverse individuals and groups which make up this broad category of people we designate as Asian Americans, and their unique and sometimes shared experiences of oppression, marginalization, racism, and political empowerment; and 4) the ways in which the experiences of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class have intersected with other marginalized groups in U.S. society. Throughout the course, we will explore these themes within global and transnational contexts to identify shared connections across borders—physical, imagined, and otherwise.

This course may be used to fulfill three hours of the U.S. history component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

Additionally, this course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

Course Aims and Student Learning Objectives
By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify major concepts, problems, and historical questions in the field of Asian American history and be able to connect them to broader themes in U.S. history;
2. Chart the historical changes and continuities in the lives of Asian Americans, from the 16th century to the present;
3. Demonstrate competence in how race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality have informed the Asian American experience;
4. Compare and contrast the experiences of different groups of Asian Americans, and to identify how these diverse experiences intersected with other racial and ethnic groups in the United States, including African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans, among others; and
5. Apply some of the major problems in Asian American history to address current social justice issues.
Required Books and other Course Materials
The following books required for this course are available for purchase at the University Co-op. These books will also be on reserve at PCL.

2. Reading assignments indicated by asterisks ** can be found on Canvas.

Attendance, Grading Procedures, and How Students Will Be Evaluated
Students will be evaluated using the conventional letter grade system, with a “+” and “-“ (e.g., A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, etc.). The bulk of students’ final grade for the course will be based on three (3) exams. The exams will require students to explain historical facts and major concepts encountered in readings, lectures, and class discussions. They will also include essay prompts that will require students to synthesize major themes of the course and to marshal primary source materials from assigned readings to craft persuasive arguments. These exams are designed to help students make historical connections and to practice the skills of historical thinking.

In addition, your attendance at all class sessions is mandatory and your attendance will be recorded on a roster before the beginning of each class session. Attendance will comprise 10% of your final grade.

The breakdown of the final grade will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Exam</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th>Content covered in the exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Covers materials from Week 1 to 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Covers materials from Week 6 to 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Covers materials from Week 10 to 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>===========</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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***NOTE: Make-up exams will not be given without notifying me in advance or providing a valid excuse for the absence. Make-up exams will be given at the professor’s discretion.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 512-471-6259. Students may feel free to speak with me in confidence concerning any need for special accommodations.

Academic Integrity
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 toward peers and community.

Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment in question or failure of the course. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be referred to Student Judicial Services. 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. Please see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php). According to these standards, using materials from an un-cited source as it were your own is an academic violation and will not 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 constitutes plagiarism and how it is dealt with, please consult the following web address: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity2.html.

*** A complete syllabus with a schedule of readings will be distributed on the first-day of class and will be available for download on Canvas for students officially registered in the course. ***