ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES 20
CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Winter 2004                              TR 12:30-1:45
# 121-060-20x                             Bunch 1209B

Instructor: Kyeyoung Park
<kpark@anthro.ucla.edu>                   Office hrs: W 1-2 & 4-5
Haines 383 (office)                      x63363, 52055

Teaching Assistants:
“Roger Chung” <r_goat@hotmail.com>
"Todd Honma" <thonma@ucla.edu>
“Kia Cha” <kia_cha@yahoo.com>

Description/Objectives:
This course provides a detailed and critical examination of contemporary issues confronting Asian American communities against the backdrop of broad economic, social, and political changes in an increasingly multi-racial American society and globalized world. Central analytical concepts include issues of race, gender, and class; identity, representation and politics. In addition, we will also ask what “responsibility” means to Asian Americans who confront these daily struggles.

The class starts with exploring the meanings of the Asian American category and the purpose of Asian American studies: knowledge production grounded in community development and change. We will focus on the emergence of new post-1965 Asian Pacific communities in the U.S. and pay special attention to documenting and analyzing immigrant children, successive generations and their experiences. With these historical and structural foundations, we will situate and investigate the Asian American experience in relation to major categories of social identity and inequality: racial tension and coalition building. In addition, we will take a gendered look at the Asian American experience (and sexuality); and Asian immigrants/refugees (along with issues of race, class, labor, and violence). Finally, to scrutinize these theoretical and ethnographic studies, we will examine the visions of resistance, politics, and culture in forming and practicing Asian American communities. Throughout the class, critical ethnographic inquiries will be stressed.

Readings: The following texts are available at the University Bookstore.

The course reader will be available at Course Reader Material, 1141 Westwood Blvd. (310) 443-3303.

Requirements/Grading:
Your maximum accumulated score will be 150 points. The final grade will be a letter grade converted from your accumulated points, taking into account extra credit work. The instructor and TA’s reserve the right to adjust the final grade upward in recognition of exceptional individual performance.
1. (Required) Participation in class and discussion section: 30 points
2. Midterm exam: 50 p; February 17 (Tuesday)
3. Final exam: 70 p; March 23 (Tuesday), 3-6 p.m.

-Poor attendance will result in a Lower final grades.
-Extra credit assignment (each worth 1 point) will be given on any date in class. Your extra credits will be computed at the end of the quarter when your grade is on the borderline. We will make grade adjustment if you have at least 4 extra credits.
-Class disruptions (chatting sessions, verbal and physical—cell phone and beeper—noises, etc.) will not be tolerated.
-Cheating, of all things (including signing the roll for someone else) will not be tolerated.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introduction and Overview
• Omatsu, Glenn, 1. The ‘Four Prisons’ and the Movement of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s. In The State of Asian America, 19-70
• (New Face) Section I: 1. Asian Pacific American Demographics in 2000: Past, Present and Future. 7-16
• (New Face) Section I: 4. Socioeconomics. 29-36
• (New Face) Section IV: 3. Education. 203-208
Video, Yuri Kochiyama

Optional
• Espiritu, Y.L., Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities. Philadelphia, Temple University, 1993

Week 2 & 3: inter-Racial (& -Ethnic) Tension and Coalition Building I & II

Video, Sa-I-Gu or Wet Sand
• Tanner, Mike, The Real-Life Sequel to “Blu’s Hanging.” AsianWeek, August 6-12, 1998


Optional
• Umemoto, K., From Vincent Chin to Joseph Ileto: Asian Pacific Americans and Hate Crime Policy. In Transforming Race Relations, 243-278


Week 4 & 5: Gender/Sexuality Challenges I & II

Video, Orientations
• (New Face) Section IV : 8. Gays and Lesbians. 245-250
- Kibria, 6. Ethnic Futures: Children and Intermarriage

Optional

Week 6 & 7: Immigrant/Refugee Acts I & II
Video, *Snakeheads*

Midterm exam (February 17)
- (New Face) Section II: 1-10 (Chinese, Filipinos, Asian Indians+, Koreans, Vietnamese+, Japanese, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders). 37-112
- Li, Wei, Building Ethnoburbia: The Emergence and Manifestation of the Chinese Ethnoburb in Los Angeles’ San Gabriel Valley. *JAAS*: 1-28, February, 1999

Video, *The Story of Vinh*

Optional:
Week 8 & 9: Successive Generations I & II

- Kibria, 1. Asian Americans and the Puzzle of New Immigrant Integration
  2. Growing up Chinese and American, Korean and American
  3. The Everyday Consequences of Being Asian: Ethnic Options and Ethnic Binds
  4. College and Asian American Identity
  5. The Model Minority at Work
  7. Becoming Asian American


  *(New Face)* Section II: 11. Hapas: the Emerging Community of Multiethnic and Multiracial APAS. 113-122

- Maira Sunaina, B-Boys and Bass Girls; Sex, Style, and Mobility in Indian American Youth Culture. *Souls* 3 (3): 65-86, Summer, 2001


  Video, Better Luck Tomorrow

Optional

- Park, K., “I Really Do Feel I’m 1.5!”: The Construction of Self and Community by Young Korean Americans. *Amerasia Journal* 25(1):139-64, 1999


- Lee, S., Unravel the “Model Minority” Stereotype: Listening to Asian American Youth. Teachers College Press, 1996


- Tuan, M., *Forever Foreigners or Honorary Whites?: The Asian Ethnic Experience Today*

Week 10: Continuing the Discussion and the Struggle
Video, Labor Women

- (New Face) Section IV: 5. Work. 219-228
- (New Face) section IV: 4. Politics and Civil Rights. 209-218

Optional