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, sexuality/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: i) racial tension and coalition building; ii) a gendered (& sexualized) look at the Asian American experience; iii) Asian immigrants/refugees (along with issues of 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, 1137 Westwood Blvd. (310) 443-3303.

Requirements/Grading:
Your maximum accumulated score will be 160 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: 40 p; February 14 (Tuesday)
3. Final exam: 60 p; March 24, 3-6 p.m. (Friday)
4. Short paper on Assigned Project (6-7 pages per group of 3): 30 P; February 28 (Tuesday)

-Poor attendance will result in Lower final grades.
-Extra credit assignment (each worth 1point) 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 (arriving late, leaving early, 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
  http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_asian_american_studies/v066.2ho.pdf
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_asian_american_studies/v005/5.3naber.pdf

- Narasaki, Karen and June Han, Asian American Civil Rights Advocacy and Research Agenda After 9/11. aapi nexus (Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice and Community) 2(1): 1-17, 2004

Optional


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


Video, Wet Sand


Optional


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

*Video, Coming Out/Coming Home; Asian & Pacific Islander Family Stories (or Orientations)*

• Manalansan, Introduction & Conclusion
  1. The Borders between *Bakla* and Gay
  2. Speaking in Transit:
  3. “Out There”

  4. The Biyuti and Drama of Everyday Life
  5. ‘To Play with the World ?’
  6. Tita Aida

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*Video, Knowing her Place*

Optional


**Week 6 & 7: Ethnic Places and Cultures I & II**

*Video, Snakeheads*
Midterm exam (February 14)


Video, Refugee

Optional:


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

• Pham, Andrew, *Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam.*

**Video, Passing Through (or Beats, Rhymes, Resistance)**

  [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_asian_american_studies/v007/7.1kwon.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_asian_american_studies/v007/7.1kwon.pdf)
• Maira Sunaina, B-Boys and Bass Girls; Sex, Style, and Mobility in Indian American Youth Culture.  *Souls* 3 (3): 65-86, Summer, 2001

**Video, Bui Doi: Life like Dust**

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

• Takahashi, J., Nisei/Sansei: Shifting Japanese American Identities and Politics. Temple Univ. P.
• Tuan, M., Forever Foreigners or Honorary Whites?: The Asian Ethnic Experience Today
• (New Face) Section II: 11. Hapas: The Emerging Community of Multiethnic and Multiracial APAS. 113-122

Week 10: Continuing the Discussion and the Struggle
Video, Labor Women
• Choy, Catherine, Relocating Struggle: Filipino Nurses Organize in the United States. In Asian/Pacific Islander American Women, 335-349, 2003
• Park, Kyeyoung, Confronting the Liquor Industry in Los Angeles. IJSSP 24 (7/8): 103-136, 2004
Video, Taxi-vala/Auto-biography or Mutiny: Asians Storm British Music

Optional