ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES 200B
CRITICAL ISSUES IN ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Winter 2006                                       W 10:00-12:50 p
# 521-013-200                                      Rolfe 3106

Instructor: Kyeyoung Park                      Office hrs: W 1:00-2:00 &
                                                by appointment

<kpark@anthro.ucla.edu>                       x63363, 52055
Haines 383 (office)

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/sexuality, and class; identity, representation and politics. In addition, we
will also ask the question of what “responsibility” means to Asian Americans in
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’ll 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 and the successive generations
as well as their experiences. With these historical and structural foundations,
we’ll 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 look at the Asian American experience (and sexuality); 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 inquiry will be
stressed.

Requirements/Grading: Class Participation and Oral Presentation(s)  30%
Research Paper                                                  70%

Reading/Writing Assignments:
1) Oral Presentation
2) Paper Draft (8-10 pages; due in the 6th week)
3) Final Research Paper (15 pages; due in the 10th week). This will be based on readings from the course and/or outside sources that engage with topics relevant to our course. You will want to show evidence of serious engagement with the issues we have discussed in class, and applying insights from our readings/discussions to the topic you choose to work on.

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

- Pham, Andrew, Catfish and Mandala: a Two-Wheeled Voyage through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam. New York: Picador, 1999

The course reader will be available at Course Reader Material, 1137 Westwood Blvd. (310) 443-3303.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introduction and Writing Asian America

• 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: Racial Tension and Coalition Building**

_Video, Twilight Los Angeles_

• Joyce, Patrick, No Fire Next Time: Black-Korean Conflicts and the Future of America’s Cities.
• Park, Kyeyoung, Confronting the Liquor Industry in Los Angeles.  _IJSSP_ 24 (7/8): 103-136, 2004

Optional
• Kim, Claire, Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City.  Yale Univ. P., 2000

• Fujita Rony, Coalitions, Race, and Labor: Rereading Philip Vera Cruz.  _Journal of Asian American Studies_ 3(2): 139-162, 2000

• Umemoto, K., From Vincent Chin to Joseph Ileto: Asian Pacific Americans and Hate Crime Policy. In _Transforming Race Relations_, 243-278
Week 3 & 4: Gender/Sexuality Challenges I & II
Video, Coming Out/Coming Home; Asian & Pacific Islander Family Stories (or Orientations)

- Manalansan, Martin, Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora.

**

Video, Knowing her place

- Dames, Vivian L., Chamorro Women, Self-Determination, and the Politics of Abortion in Guam. In Asian/Pacific Islander American Women, 365-384

Optional:

- Eng, David L. and Alice Y. Hom (eds.), Queer in Asian America.
- Espiritu, Yen Le, “We Don’t Sleep Around Like White Girls Do”: Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives. Signs 26 (2): 415-440
- Espiritu, Y. L. Asian American Women and Men
- Abraham, Margaret, Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence among South Asian Immigrants in the United States.
Week 5-6 Immigrant/Refugee Acts I & II

Video, Taxi-vala/Auto-biography


**

- Pham, Andrew, *Catfish and Mandala: a Two-Wheeled Voyage through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam*. New York: Picador, 1999

Video, The Story of Vinh

Optional:

- Lin, J., *Reconstructing Chinatown*

**Week 7-8: Successive Generations**

- Lee, Stacey, *Unraveling the “Model Minority” Stereotype: Listening to Asian American Youth*.

**


Video, *Better Luck Tomorrow (or Passing Through)*

Optional:

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


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


**Week 9: Asian Americans and Transnationalism**

• Roth, Joshua Hotaka, *Brokered homeland: Japanese Brazilian Migrants in Japan.*


(Video, Modern Heroes, Modern Slaves or Pure Chutney)

**Optional**

• Munasinghe, V., *Callaloo or tossed salad? East Indians and the cultural politics of identity in Trinidad.*


• Linger, Daniel T., *No One Home: Brazilian Selves Remade in Japan.*

**Week 10: Continuing the Discussion and the Struggle**

**Video, Labor Women**


**Optional:**