ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES 20
CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Winter 2007                                      TR 12:30-1:45
# 121-060-20x                                    Bunch 1209B

Instructor: Kyeyoung Park                        Office hrs: W 1:00-2:00 &
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Teaching Assistants:
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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 13 (Tuesday)
3. Final exam: 60 p; March 20, 8-11 a.m. (Tuesday)
4. Short paper on Assigned Project (6-7 pages per group of 3): 30 P; February 20 (Tuesday)

-Poor attendance will result in 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.
-No late submission of any of the assigned works will be accepted unless it is a documented emergency.
-Class disruptions (arriving late, leaving early, chatting sessions, verbal and physical—cell phone and beeper—noises, etc.) will not be tolerated.

All students are responsible to familiarize themselves with the UCLA Student Conduct Code and the official statements regarding cheating and plagiarism. These and other relevant documents are available on the website of the Office of the Dean of Students at: [http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/studentconduct.htm](http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/studentconduct.htm)

**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*


Video, Howard Zinn

Optional


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

- Video, Wet Sand

** Video, Who killed Vincent Chin?


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

** Video, Knowing her Place

• Abraham, Margaret, Addressing Domestic Violence and the South Asian Community in the United States. In Contemporary Asian American Communities: Intersections and Divergences, ed. by Linda Vo and Rick Bonus, 191-201. Temple Univ. P., 2002 (R)

Optional

Week 6 & 7: Ethnic Places and Cultures I & II
Video, Snakeheads or Taxi-vala/Auto-biography
Midterm exam (February 13)
• *Li, Wei, Building Ethnoburbia: The Emergence and Manifestation of the Chinese Ethnoburb in Los Angeles' San Gabriel Valley.  *JAAS*: 1-28, February, 1999
• Park, Kyeyoung & Jessica Kim, The Contested Nexus of Los Angeles Koreatown: Bohemianization as a Step to Capital Restructuring.  (Unpublished Manuscript)  (W)

Video, Refugee

Optional:

**Week 8 & 9: Successive Generations I & II**
  2. Minding the Family Store
7. Consumption, Democracy, & the Good Immigrant.


5. The American Narrative of Asian Immigration
6. Consumption Fantasies of Upward Mobility

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Video, Better Luck Tomorrow or Passing Through

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

Video, Bui Doi: Life like Dust

Optional

- 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
- Pham, Andrew, Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam.
• Lee, Stacey, 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. Hapases: 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 (W)
• Park, Kyeyoung, Confronting the Liquor Industry in Los Angeles. IJSSP 24 (7/8): 103-136, 2004 (W)

*Article available on JSTOR or YRL online journals
(R): course reader
(W): http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/07W/asian20-1/