COURSE OVERVIEW

Who are Asian Americans? Minus popular stereotypes of the “model minority” or “forever foreigner,” most Americans know surprisingly little of the nation’s fastest growing racial minority population. In the 1960s, different Asian origin groups came together under the “Asian American” umbrella and began to carve out their presence in the US labor market, education, politics, and popular culture and media. Many times, they did so in the face of racism, discrimination, sexism, homophobia, and socioeconomic disadvantage. Since the 1960s, contemporary Asian America, impacted by globalization and international migration, has emerged to be an incredibly diverse racial/ethnic population, with each segment of the community facing its unique challenges.

This course focuses on contemporary Asian American communities. It offers an entrée into the trends, issues, and debates of an increasingly diverse Asian American population, drawing from scholarly research that has addressed a wide array of relevant issues. These issues include the impact of September 11 on Asian American identity and citizenship; the continued influence of globalization on past and present waves of immigration; and the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality on the lived experiences of Asian immigrants and their US born offspring. We aim to expose our students to a broad research literature that bears directly on Americans of Asian descent and to stimulate students’ interests in pursuing further research on contemporary Asian America.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As a survey of a broad literature, students are required to read carefully and critically a fairly large volume of complex material in a relatively short period of time. Therefore, commitment and effort are imperative. Each lecture will begin with an overview of the major issues and competing theories on a specific topic, followed by a discussion that evaluates or critiques the readings or by a relevant documentary film. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before coming to class,
attend lectures, and participate in discussion sections. Missing classes and discussion sections will negatively affect your final grades. Please be aware that the deadlines of all assignments are firm and late assignments will not be credited.

A. Reading (10%)
Required Text:

Note: Please be advised that you should keep a copy of the syllabus handy. You are responsible for reading all the chapters from the required text. By reading the assigned chapters in advance you will get a better idea about what is being covered in lectures, discussion sections, and in-class pop quizzes. In lectures, I will only selectively discuss the main points and arguments made in the readings. But given a large amount of reading material, I won’t be able to cover most of it. It is imperative that you read before coming to class. Recommended readings are there to provide you with more comprehensive material on related issues, but you will not be tested on them in exams. Please read carefully, think critically, take notes, and raise questions and comments, then review your notes when you prepare for exams or writing assignments. Your reading score will be a part of your discussion section grade given by your TA.

B. Discussion Section (10%)
Discussion section attendance is required. Both reading and discussion section participation are factored into your final grades.

C. Quizzes (15%)
There will be three quizzes covering the reading, lecture, and discussion material, each worth 5 percentage points to a total of 15 percentage points. These quizzes should last no more than 10 minutes and will be very easy for any student who has completed the readings and attended classes and discussion sections. Quiz dates will not be announced in advance. Four quizzes will be given (I will drop your quiz with the lowest score). There will be NO make-ups. No exceptions.

D. In-class assignments (5%)
Five in-class writing assignments will be counted (each is worth 1%, also served as a random check for attendance), which may include a short paragraph of personal reflection on a film, an issue, or lecture. In-class writing assignments will not be announced in advance. There will be NO make-ups. Late submission will not be credited. No exceptions.

E. Midterm exam (20%)
The midterm exam is closed-book and will be held in class on Thursday May 3. The midterm will include 20 definitional or short-answer questions, covering all the readings, lectures (and guest lectures), films, and discussion topics to date.

F. Final Exam (40%)
The final exam will be made up of two parts: an in-class closed-book exam (following the same format as the midterm) and a take-home exam with two essay questions. The final exam is given in class on Thursday, June 7 with the take-home essays due on Wednesday, June 13. Please submit a soft copy of your essay exam to Turnitin on the class website before 3pm on June 13. You should also turn in a hard copy to your TA or at the Sociology main office at 264 Haines by 4pm on June 13 (The office closes between noon and 1pm daily). Late submissions will cost you 2 percentage points per day late. No exceptions.

G. Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion section participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes and in-class assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (20 in-class; 20 take-home)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A+  97-100%;  A   93-96%;  A- 90-92%
B+  88-89%;  B 83-87%;  B-  80-82%
C    73-79%;  C-   70-72%  D    60-69%;  F    Below 60%

H. Extra Credits
Up to 3 extra credits (as percentage points) may be given on your participation in campus or community events. These events must be relevant to the course topics. You must email Professor Zhou mzhou@soc.ucla.edu for pre-approval with the event flyer before the event and then submit a half-page feedback by email within two days after the event. Otherwise, you will not be credited.

I. Attendance
1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes in regular lectures or discussion sections will negatively affect your final grades;
2) You are responsible for attendance, assignments and all class-related requirements;
3) University rules are observed;
4) Class disruptions (tardiness, chatting sessions, cell phones, texting etc.) will not be tolerated.

J. Disability
If you wish to request an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501, (310) 206- 6083 (telephone device for the deaf). Website: http://www.cae.ucla.edu/Contact-Us.

K. Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty, includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions or facilitating academic misconduct, see http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity. Cheating, on all things (including signing the roll or doing assignments for someone else) will not be tolerated in the least and will result in a failing grade regardless of any other performance considerations. Based on university rules, faculty members who encounter cases of cheating or plagiarism are advised to contact the Office of the Dean of Students. The list of sanctions is found in the UCLA Student Conduct Code http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Student-Conduct-Code.

BruinAlert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BruinAlert</th>
<th>Sign up for alerts via SMS text messaging</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruins Safe Online</td>
<td>Bookmark the Bruins Safe Online website, your official source of information during an incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruins Safe Mobile App</td>
<td>Download the app from the UCLA App Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Folder</td>
<td>Locate and review your Faculty &amp; Staff 911 Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Procedures Guide</td>
<td>Each classroom will be equipped with a flipchart procedures guide by December 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Preparedness Training</td>
<td>Sign up for UCLA Worksafe training or call (310) 825-6800 to arrange a training session for your department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restock your go-bag</td>
<td>Although many emergency supplies have a lengthy shelf life, items do expire. Restock your go-bag with water, first aid items, snacks, reading glasses, fresh batteries, and other essential items.</td>
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We may not have control over when or where an emergency occurs, but if we are prepared, the impact of any emergency can be reduced for yourself and for the students who will inevitably look to you for direction.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Claiming Visibility
Required Readings:
Chapter 1 by Umemoto, “‘On Strike!’ San Francisco State College Strike, 1968-1969”
Recommended Readings:
Chapter 2 by Omatsu, “‘The Four Prisons’ and the Movement of Liberation”
April 3 (Tues.): Course introduction
Film: On Strike! Ethnic Studies, 1969-1999 by Irum Shiekh (30-minute documentary)
April 5 (Thurs.): Lecture: Asian American Movement and Contemporary Significance
Guest speaker: Professor Karen Umemoto, Director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Week 2: Traversing Borders
Required Readings:
Chapter 3 by Min Zhou et al., “Contemporary Asian America”
Chapter 4 by Bankston and Hidalgo, “The Waves of War”
April 10 (Tues.): Asian immigration
April 12 (Thurs.): Demographic transformation

Week 3: Ties that Bind
Required Readings:
Chapter 6 by Xiong. “The Reorganization of Hmong American Families in Response to Poverty”
Chapter 7 by Li et al., “Enclaves, Ethnoburbs, and New Patterns of Settlement among Asian Immigrants”
Recommended Readings:
Chapter 5 by Parrenas, “New Household Forms, Old Family Values”
April 17 (Tues.): The family
April 19 (Thurs.): Community transformation

Week 4: Struggling to Get Ahead
Required Readings:
Chapter 8 by Dhimgra, “Just Getting a Job Is Not Enough”
Chapter 9 by Espiritu, “Gender, Migration, and Work”
Recommended Readings:
Chapter 10 by Eckstein and Nguyen, “The Making and Transnationalization of an Ethnic Niche”
April 24 (Tues.): Diverse socioeconomic background and labor market incorporation
Film: Delano Manongs by Marissa Aroy and Niall McKay (28-minute documentary)
April 26 (Thurs.): Gender and work

Week 5: Sexuality in Asian America
Required Readings:
Chapter 11 by Nadal and Corpus, “‘Tomboys’ and ‘Bablas’”
Recommended Readings:
Chapter 12 by Han, “No Fats, Femmes, or Asian”
May 1 (Tues.): The intersection of race/ethnicity, gender and sexuality
Week 6: Race and Asian American Identity

**Required Readings:**
- Chapter 13 by Kim, “Are Asians Black”
- Chapter 15 by Zhou, “Are Asian Americans Becoming White?”

**Recommended Readings:**
- Chapter 14 by Ocampo, “Are Second Generation Filipinos ‘Becoming’ Asian American or Latino?”

May 8 (Tues.): Racial hierarchy
- Film: *All Orientals Look Alike* by Soe (1.5-minute documentary)

May 10 (Thurs.): Racialization

Week 7: Intermarriages and Multiracial Ethnicity

**Required Readings:**
- Chapter 16 by Lee and Bean, “Are We ‘Postracial’?”
- Chapter 17 by Nelson, “Mapping Multiple Histories of Korean American Transnational Adoption”

May 15 (Tues.): Interracial dating and marriage
- Film: *Hapa* by Sperandeo (26-minute documentary)

May 17 (Thurs.): Race and transnational adoption

Week 8: Confronting Adversity

**Required Readings:**
- Chapter 18 by Park, “A Letter to My Sister and a Twenty-Five Year Anniversary”
- Chapter 19 by Maira, “‘Racial Profiling’ in the War on Terror”

**Recommended Readings:**
- Chapter 20 by Sue et al., “Racial Microaggressions and the Asian American Experience”

May 22 (Tues.): Racism and sociocultural exclusion

May 24 (Thurs.): Racial profiling

Week 9: Beyond the Model Minority

**Required Readings:**
- Chapter 21 by Leung, “Jeremy Lin’s Model Minority Problem”
- Chapter 23 by Poon and Shihite, “Racial Anxieties, Uncertainties, and Misinformation”

**Recommended Readings:**
- Chapter 22 by Park, “Continuing Significance of the Model Minority Myth”

May 29 (Tues.): Origin of the model minority stereotypes

May 31 (Thurs.): Stereotype effects

Week 10: Multiplicity and Interracial Polities

**Required Readings:**
- Chapter 25 by Nadia Kim, “Critical Thoughts on Asian American Assimilation in the Whitening Literature”
- Chapter 27 by Ramakrishnan et al., “Race-Based Considerations and the Obama Vote”

**Recommended Readings:**
Chapter 24 by Lisa Low, “Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity”
Chapter 26 by Jennifer Ng et al., “Beyond the Perpetual Foreigner and Model Minority Stereotypes”

June 5 (Tues.): Assimilation and the citizenship issue
June 7 (Thurs.): **Final Exam I: Definitional Questions (60 minutes in in-class)**

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**Final Exam II: Essay Questions** (distributed at the end of class to take home)

**Final Exam II is due no later than 4pm on Wednesday June 13.** Please submit a soft copy of your essay exam to Turnitin on the class website **before 3pm on June 13.** You should also turn in a hard copy to your TA or at the Sociology main office at 264 Haines by 4pm on June 13 (The office closes between noon and 1pm daily). **Late submissions will cost you 2 percentage points per day late. No exceptions.**