MAP World Cultures: Introduction to Asian/Pacific/American Cultures  
V55.0539, Silver 714  
Spring 2006, MW 11am - 12.15pm  

Professor Karen Shimakawa  
212-998-1561, kshimakawa@nyu.edu  
OH:  T 11am-1pm, 719 Broadway 311-C  
TH 11am – 1pm, 41-51 E. 11th St., 705  

Professor Lok Siu  
212-998-3694, lok.siu@nyu.edu  
OH:  W 2-3pm and by Appointment, 41-51 East 11th St., 707  

Teaching Assistants  
Miabi Chatterji  
mc1322@nyu.edu  
Descha Daemgen  
djd238@nyu.edu  
Chinua Thelwell  
cat306@nyu.edu  

Course Description  
What do the USA PATRIOT Act, Japanese manga, and transcultural adoption have in common? What can they tell us about the social and political formation of Asian/Pacific/America communities, including the historical forces that have shaped them and the expressive cultures they produce?  

Focusing on pivotal events or movements in Asian/Pacific/American history and contemporary life—the Los Angeles riots, 9/11 and its aftermath—we discuss ethnic and class conflict, the politics of representation, and question of racial profiling, among other topics. The approach is interdisciplinary, combining a socio-cultural perspective with legal and performative lenses to illuminate Asian/Pacific/American cultures. Through films, guest speakers, in addition to historical readings and social science literature, students examine not only contemporary practices of Asian/Pacific America, but also their historical contexts and wider social implications. By considering current and emerging A/P/A issues, we gain a better understanding of how new forms of culture emerge from global flows of people, ideas, and media.  

Criteria for Student Evaluation  
(1) Attendance in lecture and recitation is required. Students should come to both prepared to discuss class materials, raise questions, and offer informed comments. Active participation is encouraged. (15%)  
(2) To facilitate active participation and to guide comprehension of key concepts and ideas in texts, your professors will be posting reading questions on blackboard a few days before each class meeting. Students are required to submit no more than 1/2 page (typed, double-spaced, 10-12 pt. font) response papers to 15 of these reading questions. Since reading questions are posted for each class for which there is required reading, students may choose which 15 questions to answer. Response papers are to be turned in at the beginning of each class. NO late papers are accepted. (15%)  
(3) In place of a midterm exam, students will choose one of the following books: Chinatown Trunk Mystery, Beyond the Shadow of Camptown, and Pau Hana, and write a critical book summary on it. Papers should be typed, five (5) pages in length, double-spaced, 10-12 pt. font. (30%)
(4) To gauge student comprehension of key concepts and ideas presented in lecture and readings, students will have a take-home final exam. Students will have one week to select a question from the final exam and answer it in essay form. The final paper should be typed, five (5) pages in length, double-spaced, 10-12 pt. font. (40%)

Week 1
Wed. 1/17 Introduction

Week 2
Mon. 1/22 Global Migration: Asians in the Americas

Wed. 1/24 Not So Close to Paradise: Life in the Sugar Plantations of Hawaii

Week 3
Mon. 1/29 Bachelor Societies, Trans-Pacific Families, Women’s Lives

Wed. 1/31 Chinatown Trunk Mystery

Guest Speaker: Mary Lui

Week 4
Mon. 2/5 White by Law

Wed. 2/7 Inter-racial Community Formation: Punjabi Mexicans

Week 5
Mon. 2/12 Film: Family Gathering by Lise Yasui

Wed. 2/14 WWII, Japanese Internment, Redress

Week 6
Mon. 2/19 President’s Day

Wed. 2/21 War Brides, Comfort Women, Transnational Adoption
Week 7
Mon. 2/26 Social Movements of the 1960s
   Film: On Strike

Wed. 2/28 Forging Pan-Ethnicity

Week 8
Mon. 3/5 New Immigrants: INS Reforms, Refugees of War
   Pp. 17-42.

Wed. 3/7 Hmong Hunter Incident
   Schein, Louisa. Forthcoming. “Occult Racism: Masking Race in the
   Hmong Hunter Incident. A Dialogue between Anthropologist
   Louisa Schein and Filmmaker Va-Megn Thoj”

   Guest Speaker: Louisa Schein

Week 9  SPRING BREAK

Week 10
Mon. 3/19 Critical Summary Paper Due in Class.
   Film: a. k. a. Don Bonus

Wed. 3/21 Model Minority and Affirmative Action
   Analysis of the Popular Press Image in the 19602 and the 1980s,"
   in Reflections on Shattered Windows: Promises and Prospects for
   Asian American Studies, ed. Gary Okihiro, Washington State UP.

   Lee, Stacey J. 1996. Unraveling the "Model Minority" Stereotype:
   Listening to Asian American Youth, Teachers College P. [Pp TBA]

Week 11
Mon. 3/26 Los Angeles Riots
   Film: Sai-I Gu

Wed. 3/28 Red Apple Incident and the Los Angeles Riots

Week 12
Mon. 4/2 Globalization and Labor
   Film: Made in China
Wed. 4/4  Sweatshop Warriors: Globalization and the new A/P/A Working Class

**Week 13**
Mon. 4/9  New Migrant Circuits and Diasporic Connections
         Press. [Pp TBA].

Wed. 4/11 Perpetual Foreigners: Wen Ho Lee, John Huang Scandal, Vincent Chin

**Week 14**
Mon. 4/16 Aftermath of 9/11
         Mustafa Bayouni [TBA].
         Avitar Kumar [TBA].
         Guest Speaker: Liz Ouyang

Wed. 4/18 Popular Representations: Fu Manchu, Lotus Blossom, Dragon Lady
         Marchetti, Gina. 1994. *Romance and the "Yellow Peril": Race, Sex, and
         Iowa P. [Pp TBA]

**Week 15**
Mon. 4/23 In Search of Roots, Transnational Adoption
         Pp. 69-91.

Wed. 4/25 Youth Culture: Performance and Identity
         Guest Speaker: D.J.Rekha

**Week 16**
Mon. 4/30 Emergent Artists and Self-Representation
         Street: Asian American Popular Culture*, NYU Press. [Pp TBA]

         Nguyen, Mimi and Thuy Tu, eds. Forthcoming. *Alien Encounters:*
         *Popular Culture in Asian America*, Duke UP. [Pp TBA]