

MAP World Cultures: Introduction to Asian/Pacific/American Cultures

V55.0539, Silver 714

Spring 2006, MW 11am - 12.15pm

Professor Karen Shimakawa

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OH: T 11am-1pm, 719 Broadway 311-C

TH 11am – 1pm, 41-51 E. 11th St., 705

Professor Lok Siu

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Teaching Assistants

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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/American 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
Jung, Moon-Ho. 2006. *Coolies and Cane*. Johns Hopkins Press. Pp. 11-38.

Wed. 1/24 Not So Close to Paradise: Life in the Sugar Plantations of Hawaii
Takaki, Ronald. 1983. *Pau Hana: Plantation Life and Labor in Hawaii*.
University of Hawaii Press. Pp. 1-29, 92-98.

Week 3

Mon. 1/29 Bachelor Societies, Trans-Pacific Families, Women's Lives
Yung, Judy. 1995. *Unbound Feet*. UC Press. Pp. 15-51.

Wed. 1/31 Chinatown Trunk Mystery
Lui, Mary. 2004. *Chinatown Trunk Mystery*. Princeton U Press. Pp. 1-51.

Guest Speaker: Mary Lui

Week 4

Mon. 2/5 White by Law
Haney-López, Ian. 1996. *White By Law: The Legal Construction of Race*.
NYU Press, Pp. 1-36.

Wed. 2/7 Inter-racial Community Formation: Punjabi Mexicans
Leonard, Karen. 1992. *Making Ethnic Choices*. Temple University Press.
Pp. 62-73, 123-142.

Week 5

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

Wed. 2/14 WWII, Japanese Internment, Redress
Irons, Peter. 1983. *Justice at War: The Story of the Japanese American
Internment Cases*, Oxford UP. Pp.83-96.
Hatamiya, Leslie. 1993. *Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and the
Passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988*. Stanford UP. Pp. 8-23.

Week 6

Mon. 2/19 President's Day

Wed. 2/21 War Brides, Comfort Women, Transnational Adoption
Yuh, Ji-Yeon. 2004. *Beyond the Shadow of Camp Town*. NYU Press.
[Pp TBA]

Week 7

Mon. 2/26 Social Movements of the 1960s
Film: On Strike

Wed. 2/28 Forging Pan-Ethnicity
Espiritu, Yen-Le. 1992. *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*. Temple UP, 1992. Pp. 1-18, 161-176.

Week 8

Mon. 3/5 New Immigrants: INS Reforms, Refugees of War
Hing, Bill. 1993. *Making and Remaking Asian America*. Stanford U Press. 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
Osajima, Keith. 1988. "Asian Americans as the Model Minority: An Analysis of the Popular Press Image in the 1960s and the 1980s," in *Reflections on Shattered Windows: Promises and Prospects for Asian American Studies*, ed. Gary Okihiro, Washington State UP. Pp. 165-174.

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
Kim, Claire. 2000. *Bitter Fruit*. Yale U Press. Pp. 109-155.

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
Louie, Miriam. 2001. *Sweatshop Warriors*. South End Press. [Pp TBA].

Week 13

Mon. 4/9 New Migrant Circuits and Diasporic Connections
Mitchell, Katharyne. 2004. *Crossing the Neoliberal Line*. Temple U. Press. [Pp TBA].

Wed. 4/11 Perpetual Foreigners: Wen Ho Lee, John Huang Scandal, Vincent Chin
Zia, Helen. 2001. *My Country Versus Me*. Hyperion Press. Pp. 17-85

Week 14

Mon. 4/16 Aftermath of 9/11
Mustafa Bayoumi [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 Discursive Strategies in Hollywood Fiction*. UC Press, Pp. 1-9.
Moy, James. 1994. *Marginal Sights: Staging the Chinese in America*. U Iowa P. [Pp TBA]
Lee, Robert. 1999. *Orientalists*, Temple UP. [Pp TBA].

Week 15

Mon. 4/23 In Search of Roots, Transnational Adoption
Louie, Andrea. 2004. *Chineseness Across Borders*. Duke U Press. Pp. 69-91.

Wed. 4/25 Youth Culture: Performance and Identity
Maira, Sunaina. 2002. *Desis in the House*. Temple U Press. Pp. 29-82.

Guest Speaker: D.J.Rekha

Week 16

Mon. 4/30 Emergent Artists and Self-Representation
Davé, Shilpa, Leilani Nishime, and Tasha Oren, eds. 2005. *East Main 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]