CULTURES AND CONTEXTS:
ASIAN/PACIFIC/AMERICAN CULTURES

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& by appointment

Fall 2018
Course Room: SILV 520
TAs: S. Wilson Sherwin
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course will examine historical and contemporary examples of Asian/Pacific/American political, social, and cultural practices in the United States. Bringing together a diversity of texts related to and within the field of Asian/Pacific/American studies, the course will explore what constitutes Asian/Pacific/American identity and, indeed, what constitutes the dynamic field of Asian/Pacific/American studies itself. Emerging from various forms of student and community organizing in the late 1960s, the social movement based and interdisciplinary questions of this field has expanded to offer different ways of thinking about questions of race, gender, sexuality, nation, immigration, sexuality, ecologies, and imperialism. As a class, we will collectively examine Asian American and Pacific Islander communities through a thematic approach that will allow us to understand diverse communities in relation to each other. Such an approach creates space to examine the specificities as well as the overlapping similarities of the relations of power that constitute these different communities.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:
In addition to having read all the week’s readings by Monday’s lecture, students are expected to be on time, stay the duration and not pack up before class is over. Laptops, iPads, cell phones and iPods are not allowed during either lecture or recitation. Please make sure to silence or turn off all phones—if your phone rings during class, I get to answer it.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:


Reader is available at the NYU Bookstore. All other materials including book chapters, articles, additional links, announcements and other added materials are available through our NYU Classes site.
Grading: Participation/Attendance, Papers, and Exams

Course Grade: Class evaluation will be based on participation and attendance in lecture and recitation (20%), three papers (40%), midterm exam (15%) and final exam (25%).

Participation/Attendance: Attendance at all meetings of the lecture and recitation is expected and required. Absences will adversely affect the participation component of students’ overall course grade, and you are liable to an automatic failing grade in the course for more than three absences from lecture and/or recitation even if you have completed all other course requirements. Come to class on time and stay for the duration. (20%)

Papers: To help you think through and engage the topics/concepts covered in the course you are responsible for submitting three (3) papers. These papers give you space to develop your own argument and offer textual evidence related to topics covered in the course. The first paper should be 3 - 4 pages double-spaced and is due at the beginning of your recitation in week 4. The first paper is worth 10%. The second paper should be 4 - 5 pages and will be due in week 9 also at the beginning of your recitation and is worth 15%. After the midterm, the remaining paper will be 5 - 6 pages and is worth 15%. The third paper is due week 14.

Paper 1 “Asian Pacific American Landmarks”: Visit and photograph an A/P/A landmark in New York and write up an analysis of the place and a description of its importance in the A/P/A community. Students are encouraged to use whatever methodology works best with their expertise and the given site. Examples include: a historical analysis, ethnography, or visual analysis of the site. Examples include: The Museum of the Chinese in the Americas, spaces in Chinatown or Koreatown, or an A/P/A Art exhibit. (3 - 4 pages)

Paper 2: Select a recent news article discussing an issue facing the A/P/A community (e.g. gentrification, immigration reform, reproductive justice, bilingual education, affirmative action, etc.) and analyze it using the readings and themes of the course. (4 - 5 pages)

Paper 3: An introductory course on A/P/A cultures can only cover so much - choose a topic that was not covered or only briefly mentioned in the class and write about why it should be included in an introductory course on A/P/A cultures. Be sure to analyze its connections to the themes of the course. (5 - 6 pages)

Students are encouraged to visit the professor and/or Recitation Instructors during office hours to discuss their papers. (40%)

Exams: To gauge student comprehension of key concepts and ideas presented in lecture and readings, there will be two exams throughout the semester, one midterm (15%) and one final exam (25%). Exams will consist of key terms and essay questions that test your knowledge.
of the concepts and ideas of the course material. (40%) You are expected to bring your own blue books for the midterm and final exam.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is submitting a piece of work or a portion of a work (for example, an essay, research paper or quotation) which in part or in whole is not entirely the student’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source. You are responsible for knowing the University’s policy on plagiarism, which can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html. The University’s policy will be strictly enforced to the fullest extent in cases of plagiarism.

Accommodations:
I am happy to provide accommodations for students with learning disabilities, and I will protect the confidentiality of students’ individual learning needs. Please contact me privately and we can work to accommodate your needs.

Changes to Syllabus:
The course syllabus is subject to change. Because this course is not only about scholarly work but also about other sources of information such as blogs, I will be adding (and possibly subtracting) current pieces to the syllabus as we go. Students will be notified at least one week prior to any changes and all new assignments, links to relevant posts and/or pieces will be posted to Classes.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: (9.5) Introductions and Course Expectations

- Syllabus Speed Dating
- What is Asian Pacific American Cultures and Contexts?

Week 2 (9.10, 9.12) Setting the Stakes

  Film: The Grace Lee Project (2005, dir. Grace Lee)
  - Gary Y. Okihiro, “When and Where I Enter” in Asian American Studies Now!
  - Vicente M. Diaz, “To ‘P’ or Not to ‘P?’: Marking the Territory Between Pacific Islander and Asian American Studies” in Journal of Asian American Studies
Week 3: (9.17, 9.19) ‘The Chinese Question’

9.17: Guest Speaker: Dylan Yeats, NYU A/P/A Institute

- Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim, and Judy Yung, “Introduction” and Poems 12-33 from Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940

Week 4: (9.24, 9.26) Historical Amnesia and the Philippine-American War

Paper #1 (3 - 4 pages) Due in Recitation

9.26: Guest Speaker: Luis Francia, NYU

- Yen Le Espiritu, “Homes, Borders, and Possibilities” in Asian American Studies Now!

Week 5: Native Hawaiians and U.S. Imperialism

10.1: Guest Speaker: Dean Saranillio, NYU

Film: Mele Murals (2017, dir. Tadashi Nakamura)

- Noelani Goodyear-Ka’opua, “The Emergence of Hawaiian Charter Schools” in The Seeds We Planted
- U.S. Apology for the 1893 Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1993)
- Haunani Kay Trask, “Apologies,” in Amerasia Journal
Week 6: (10.8, 10.10) First Wave of Asian Immigration

No Class 10.8: Fall Recess

- Ronald Takaki, “Overblown with Hope: The First Wave of Asian Immigration” in *Strangers from a Different Shore*, pp. 19-75
- Moon Ho Jung, Chapter One “Outlawing Coolies” in *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation*, pp. 11-38.

Week 7: (10.15, 10.17) Midterm

10:15: Midterm Review
10:17: Midterm

Week 8: (10.22, 10.24) Internment, Post ‘65 Immigration, and the Model Minority Myth

Film: *Pilgrimage* (2007, dir. Tadashi Nakamura)

- “Executive Order 9066”
  http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5154
- Life Magazine’s 1941 Article, “How to tell Japs from the Chinese”
  http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/foster/lifemag.htm
- Gordon H. Chang, “Superman is about to visit the relocation centers’ & the Limits of Wartime Liberalism” in *Amerasia Journal* pgs. 37 - 59.


Paper #2 (4 - 5 pages) Due in Recitation

- Maxwell Leung, “Jeremy Lin’s Model Minority Problem” in *Contemporary Asian America*
- Lisa S. Park, “A Letter to My Sister and a Twenty-Five-Year Anniversary” in *Contemporary Asian America*
● Oiyan Poon, “A Real Talk Primer on Affirmative Action, Fisher, College Admissions, and Race”
https://acpacsje.wordpress.com/2012/12/18/a-real-talk-primer-on-affirmative-action-fisher-college-admissions-and-race/

Week 9: (10.31) Queering Asian America Part One
Guest Speakers: Gayatri Gopinath, NYU
Anthony Kim, Williams College


Week 10: (11.5) Food, Culture, and Migration
Guest Speaker: Gavin Beinart-Smollan, NYU

● Michelle Zauner, “Crying in H Mart,” The New Yorker, August 20, 2018
https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/crying-in-h-mart

Week 10: (11.7) Queering Asian America Part Two
11.7: Guest Speaker: Glenn Magpantay, NQAPIA

Week 11: (11.12, 11.14) Third World Liberation and Asian American Solidarities
Film: A Song for Ourselves (2011, dir. Tadashi Nakamura)
11.12: Guest Speaker: S. Wilson Sherwin, CUNY Graduate Center


● Vijay Prashad, “Crafting Solidarities” in Asian American Studies Now


Week 12: (11.19, 11.21) Thankstaking − No Classes
Week 13: (11.26, 11.28) Organizing Behind the Lens
11.28: Guest Speaker: Tadashi Nakamura, UCLA
- Yen Le Espiritu, “Reactive Solidarity: Anti-Asian Violence” in *Asian American Panethnicities: Bridging Institutions and Identities*

Week 14: (12.3, 12.5) Asian Americans and 9/11
Paper #3 (5 - 6 pages) Due in Recitation
12.3: Guest Speaker: Liz OuYang, NYU
12.5: Guest Speaker: Crystal Parikh, NYU
- Muneer Ahmad, “Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day after September 11”
- Sunaina Maira, “Youth Culture, Citizenship, and Globalization: South Asian Muslim Youth in the United States After September 11th,” in *Asian American Studies Now!*

Week 15: (12.10, 12.12) Asian American Media/Pop Culture + Final Exam Prep
12.10: Guest Speakers from Filming Asian America
12.12: Final Exam Review
- Readings TBA

Final Exam Date: Wednesday, December 19 from 4 – 5:50pm