CULTURES AND CONTEXTS: 
ASIAN/PACIFIC/AMERICAN CULTURES

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Office Hours: Thurs 9-10:30am
& by appointment

Fall 2019
Course Room: CANT 101
TAs: Minju Bae
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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:

- Dear Cyborgs, Eugene Lim (2017)
Reader and novel are 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 “Contemporary Issues in Asian Pacific America”:* 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 “Write Your Own Op-Ed”:* 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%) Blue books will be provided.

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:
Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is: www.nyu.edu/csd. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU Immigrant Defense Initiative (IDI)
The NYU Immigrant Defense Initiative (IDI) offers free and confidential legal services to NYU students and employees, and their immediate family members, on their immigration cases. IDI can assist with DACA, TPS, asylum, legal permanent residency, citizenship, employment authorization, representation in immigration court, humanitarian visas, and consultations for those who have had contact with the criminal system (i.e. arrest or conviction) or have violated their visa. IDI also provides foreign travel monitoring for those affected by the Travel Ban, or who are at risk of being denied entry to the US, Know-Your-Rights trainings, and advocacy within NYU departments (financial aid, housing, student groups). Contact IDI at immigrant.defense@law.nyu.edu or 212- 998-6435 (no walk-ins). More information at: https://www.law.nyu.edu/immigrantrightsclinic/IDI

A note about email:
Please be thoughtful in your professional communication. It is important to develop appropriate emailing styles for different contexts. Your professors and your peers expect emails to be written free of texting shorthand, with an appropriate salutation.
Feel free to contact me outside of normal hours, but understand that I may not respond immediately, in some cases up to 48 hours later. Note, too, that I cannot discuss grades, or answer substantive questions about course material, over email.

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: (9.4) Introductions and Course Expectations

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

Week 2 (9.9, 9.11) Setting the Stakes


- Sucheng Chan, “Asian American Struggles for Civil, Political, Economic, and Social Rights” in *Asian American Studies Now!*
- 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: (9.16, 9.18) ‘The Chinese Question’

9.16: Guest Speaker: Dylan Yeats, PhD


- 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*
• Mae Ngai, “Why Trump is Making Muslims the New Chinese,” cnn.com

Week 4: (9.23, 9.25) Historical Amnesia and the Philippine-American War
  Paper #1 (3 - 4 pages) Due in Recitation
  9.25: Guest Speaker: Luis Francia, NYU
  • Luzviminda Francisco, “The First Vietnam: The U.S.-Philippine War of 1899”
  https://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/francisocfirstvietnam.html
  • Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden”
  http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5478/
  • Luis Francia, “Empire Strikes Back”
  • Yen Le Espiritu, “Homes, Borders, and Possibilities” in Asian American Studies Now!

Week 5: (9.30, 10.2) Native Hawaiians and U.S. Imperialism
  9.30,10.2: Guest Speaker: Dean Saranillio, NYU
  • Dean Saranillio, “Preface” and “Introduction” in Unsustainable Empire: Alternative Histories of Hawai’i Statehood
  • Haunani Kay Trask, “Apologies,” in Amerasia Journal
  • U.S. Apology for the 1893 Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1993)
  https://www.hawaii-nation.org/publawsum.html
  https://www.hawaii-nation.org/publawall.html

Week 6: (10.7, 10.9) First Wave of Asian Immigration
  10.9: Midterm Review
  • Ronald Takaki, “Overblown with Hope: The First Wave of Asian Immigration” in Strangers from a Different Shore, pp. 19-75

Week 7: (10.14, 10.16) Midterm
  No Class 10.14: Fall Recess
  10:15 (Legislative Day): Guest Speaker: Lanakila Mangauil
  10:16: Midterm
Mauna Kea-Temple Under Siege:

Dean Saranillio, “Stop TMT: Bearing Witness to the Decolonial Change the World Needs” in Forum 21/ Enduring Hawaiian Sovereignty: Protecting the Sacred at Mauna Kea,
https://www.radicalhistoryreview.org/abusablepast/?p=3250

Week 8: (10.21, 10.23) Interrogation Rooms and Internment Camps
10.23: Guest Speaker: Monica Kim, NYU
Film: Pilgrimage (2007, dir. Tadashi Nakamura)
  ● Monica Kim, “Introduction” and “Chapter 3” in Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History
  ● “Executive Order 9066”
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5154
  ● Life Magazine’s 1941 Article, “How to tell Japs from the Chinese”
http://digitalexhibits.wsulibs.wsu.edu/files/original/cf2dcf0cbabc74b6359e319276d5091a.jpg

Week 9: (10.28,10.30) Post ‘65 Immigration and the Model Minority Myth
  ● Alia Wong, “The App at the Heart of the Movement to End Affirmative Action,” The Atlantic, November 20, 2018
https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/11/asian-americans-wechat-war-affirmative-action/576328/?fbclid=IwAR3c9KOrAj_7dMMZLnnCVHpuwV8Y0qv3K9sdUuq1K4pTEvqB3fWh4osVx8
Week 10: (11.4, 11.6) Model Minority Myth in Transnational Perspective

Paper #2 (4 - 5 pages) Due in Recitation
11.4: Guest Speaker: Smaran Dayal, NYU
11.6: No Class

- Veronika Fuechtner and Mary Rhiel, "What is Asian-German Studies?" in *Imagining Germany, Imagining Asia* (2013).
- Eugene Lim, *Dear Cyborgs*

Week 11: (11.11, 11.13) War, Words and Refugee Experiences

- 11.11: No Class
- 11.12: No Recitations
- 11.13: Guest Speaker: Eugene Lim

- Eugene Lim, *Dear Cyborgs*

Week 12: (11.18, 11.20) War, Words and Refugee Experiences + Third World Liberation and the Asian American Solidarities

- 11.18: Guest Speaker: Nou Moua
- 11.20: Guest Speaker: Cynthia Gao

- “Go Where You Need to Go,” Hmongumentary Podcast, [https://www.hmongumentary.com/sharon-her](https://www.hmongumentary.com/sharon-her)
- “How Do We Hold onto This?”, Hmongumentary Podcast, [https://www.hmongumentary.com/fong-xiong](https://www.hmongumentary.com/fong-xiong)
- Eric Tang, *Collateral Damage: Southeast Asian Poverty in the United States* in *Asian American Studies Now*
- Readings TBD

Week 13: (11.25, 11.27) Thankstaking – No Classes

Week 14: (12.2, 12.4) Third World Liberation and the Asian American Solidarities (Cont.)

- 12.4: Guest Speaker: Minju Bae, Temple University
● Glenn Omatsu, “The Four Prisons and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s” in *Asian American Studies Now*
● Mari Matsuda, “We Will Not Be Used: Are Asian Americans The Racial Bourgeoisie?” in *Asian American Studies Now*
● Anelise Chen, “The Real Story Behind Five Dumplings for a Dollar Deal,” [https://opencitymag.aaww.org/five-dumplings-for-a-dollar/](https://opencitymag.aaww.org/five-dumplings-for-a-dollar/)
● Katie Quan, “Memories of the 1982 ILGWU Strike in New York City Chinatown,” *Amerasia Journal*

**Week 15: (12.9, 12.11) Asian Americans and the 2020 Census + Final Exam Prep**

Paper #3 (5 - 6 pages) Due in Recitation
12.10: Guest Speakers Liz OuYang, NYU
12.12: Final Exam Review

● Readings TBA

**Final Exam Date: Wednesday, December 18 from 4 – 5:50pm**