AAS 2130
Introduction to Asian American History
Fall 2014
Cornell University
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:40-12:55pm
Uris Hall 262

Course Instructor: Chrissy Lau
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Office Hours: 10-11am, 1-2pm

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to the histories of Asian Americans from the mid 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century. Major themes of Asian American History will include immigration and labor, race and gender relations, community formation and social movements. This class will cover topics such as Orientalism, anti-immigrant movements, immigration and exclusion, Japanese American internment, the Asian American Movement, the model minority, Vincent Chin, the Oriental Monk and the UCSB shootings. Students will work with primary documents, including the political cartoons, an immigrant manga and a Japanese American incarceration archive.

Course Goals:
• Introduce the student to an analytical understanding of racial, ethnic and gendered processes as they have operated around the experiences of Asian Americans in the late 19th until the 20th century United States, from the disciplinary perspectives of History, Ethnic Studies, and Feminist Studies.
• Introduce to the student the basics of analyzing a primary source.
• Challenge the student to read and listen analytically and to think and write critically about matters of substantial personal, social, cultural, and political importance.

Required Texts:
Henry Kiyama, The Four Immigrants Manga
Other articles will be posted On the Blackboard http://www.blackboard.cornell.edu/

Course Breakdown:
10% Attendance and Participation
15% In-Class Pop Quizzes (Best 5 out of 6)
15% Primary Document Analysis
20% Midterm
20% Japanese American Incarceration Project
20% Final

Attendance and Participation (10%)
Each student is required to attend class regularly. You may miss class only if it qualifies as an excused absence, which is a written note from your doctor concerning an illness or from counseling/social services about a grievance. Please clear your absences with me beforehand. Moreover, each student must show up to class on time and if you are tardy, it will count against your attendance. Attendance is the first step to achieving a good letter grade. The next step is participation: you are required to do the readings prior to class and actively participate in class activities and discussion. Please take down notes, jot down some questions, and bring your voice to class. Please silence your phones and absolutely no texting in class.
Documentaries to be shown in class:
A Dollar a Day, Ten Cents a Dance
Forbidden City, USA
Fall of the I-Hotel
Who Killed Vincent Chin?
Eating Welfare
Chain of Love

Pop Quizzes (15%)
There will be six pop quizzes given during the semester in order to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings for class. Each quiz is worth three percentage points and will require you to write your name (one point automatic) and answer two questions. A total of six quizzes will be given throughout the semester and the lowest quiz score will be dropped, scoring only five quizzes. You will be quizzed on the readings due that day.

Primary Document Analysis (15%)
In the first half of the semester, we will be reading primary source documents from Hoover Institution's Survey of Race Relations. In the early 1920s, a group of scholars set out to make an investigation of economic, religious, educational, civic, biological, and social conditions among Chinese, Japanese, and other non-European residents of the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada. As a result, Dr. Park published his findings with the Chicago School of Sociology. For this class, we will be analyzing life histories written by second generation Japanese American male and female youth during the 1920s. You must use the readings of this course to support your arguments. This assignment will be evaluated on the following criteria: clarity of expression and presentation; ability to provide a close, thoughtful, and critical reading of the document’s contents; success in locating the document in its proper historical context; and effective linking of document and issues to broader themes and questions in Asian American history. Due: 9/30.

Midterm Exam (20%)
An in-class midterm will take place on October 19th, 2014. The format will include multiple choice (30%), key terms (30%), and an essay (30%). You will be responsible for the readings up until that date.

Japanese American Incarceration Exhibition Project (20%)
In this class, we will create an online public exhibition for the Japanese American incarceration archives at the Kroch library. In groups of four, under a common theme, each student will analyze one primary source from the archive and write a one-page description of how the source reveals the experiences of Japanese Americans during Incarceration. You will need to cite at least two different secondary texts. Proposal due 10/28, First Draft due 11/4, Second Draft due 11/11 Final Exhibition Piece due 12/2

Final Exam (20%)
The in-class final exam will cover the readings from the second half of the course. The format will include multiple choice (30%), key terms (30%), and an essay (40%).

A Precaution Against Plagiarism
MLA defines plagiarism as “the act of using another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source…to plagiarize is to give the impression you have written or thought
something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else.” This means absolutely no referencing of websites or outside sources as well as paraphrasing without full citations. If you are caught plagiarizing or party to plagiarizing, you will receive a FAIL in the course.

**Course Schedule**

*Schedule and readings are subject to change*

**Week 1: Introduction**

8/26  Introduction to the Course

8/28  Orientalism  
Read: Said, *Orientalism* Introduction

**Week 2: Contact, Immigration, and Exclusion**

9/2  The Question of Chinese Immigration  
Read: Tchen, “The Alarm” and “Descent to Darkness”  
Primary Document: Davis Phillips Discusses the Chinese Question  
Optional: Primary Document: Political Cartoons http://thomasnastcartoons.com

9/4  Chinese Immigration During Exclusion  
Read: Lee, “The Chinese Exclusion Example”

**Week 3: Empire and Class in Japanese America 1880s to 1924**

9/9  Japanese Immigration and Labor  
Read: Kiyama, *Four Immigrants Manga*

9/11  Empire and Picture Brides  
Read: Kiyama, *Four Immigrants Manga*

**Week 4: Industry, Whiteness, and Early 20th Century Asian America**

9/16  American Imperialism and the Filipinos  
Read: Primary Document: Kipling’s Poem http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kipling.asp  
Carlos Bulosan’s *America Is In the Heart* Excerpt  
http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=19990808&slug=2976108  
Film: *A Dollar a Day, Ten Cents a Dance*

9/18  Not Quite White: South Asians  

**Week 5: 1920s Consumer Culture and the Youth**

9/23  Orientalism, Modernity, and the Second Generation  
Read: Survey of Race Relations Primary Documents  
Yu, “The Oriental Problem”

9/25  The New Woman and Flapper Culture  
Read: Magistro, “Flaming Youth”
Week 6: 1930s Great Depression
9/30 Filipinos and Popular Culture
   Read: Espana Maram, *Creating Masculinity*

10/2 New Chinatown
   Read: Lim, “I Protest: Anna May Wong”
   Chun, “Go West to...China”
   Film: *Forbidden City, USA* (56 mins)
   Due: Primary Source Analysis

Week 7: Midterm
10/7 Midterm Review

10/9 In Class Midterm

Week 8: World War II
10/14 No class: Fall Break

10/16 Field Trip: Japanese American Incarceration Archive
   Read: Hastings, “No Longer a Silent Victim of History”

Week 9: World War II and the Cold War
10/21 Japanese American Incarceration
   Read: Matsumoto, *City Girls*, Chapter 4

10/23 Cold War Orientalism
   Read: Klein, Chapter 6 “Asians in America”
   Cheng, “Out of Chinatown and Into the Suburbs”

Week 10: The Movement and the Model Minority
10/28 Asian American Movement
   Read: Umemoto, “On Strike!”
   Film: *On Strike at San Francisco State*
   Due: Primary Source Exhibition Piece Proposal

10/30 Asian American Movement
   Read: Habal, “People Rights Over Property Rights”
   Film: *Fall of the I-Hotel*

Week 11: Model Minority and Post 1965 Immigration
11/4 Model Minority
   Read: Primary Document: “Success of One Minority Group”
   Kurashige, http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Model_minority/
   Due: First Draft Exhibition Piece

11/6 Globalization and Capitalist Restructuring
Restructuring”
Zhao, “Drawing Lines of Class Distinction”

**Week 12: Globalization, Race, and Violence**
11/11 Vincent Chin
   Read: Darden and Thomas, “The Declining Auto Industry”
   Film: *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*
   Due: Second Draft Exhibition Piece

11/13 Who Killed Vincent Chin? Mock Trial

**Week 13: Labor Unrest**
11/18 Korean Americans and Urban Unrest
   Read: Park, “The Los Angeles Civil Unrest”
   Kim, “Racial Triangulation”

11/20 Southeast Asian Refugees
   Read: Tang, “Collateral Damage”
   Film: *Eating Welfare*

**Week 14: Global Chain of Care**
11/25 Immigrant Asian Workers
   Read: Parrenas, “Motheering From a Distance”
   Film: *Chain of Love*

11/27 Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15: Asian Americans in a Multicultural Society**
12/2 Virtual Orientalism
   Read: Iwamura, “Oriental Monk”
   Due: Final Exhibition Piece

12/4 UCSB Shootings
   Read: Ameeriar, “Investing in Whiteness: The UCSB Tragedy and Asian America”

**Finals Week**
12/ In-Class Final