What does it mean to be American? How are Asians perceived in relation to what it means to be American? When do Asians become the new Americans? We will explore these questions through an examination of the historical trajectories of Orientalism, exclusion, inclusion, multiculturalism, and globalization. Topics include the Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese American flapper culture, Filipinos and the I-Hotel, Southeast Asian refugees, the LA Black-Korean conflict, and the UCSB youth shootings. Students will work with primary documents, such as political cartoons, an immigrant manga, and a World War II incarceration archive.

Questions? Contact Professor Lau at cyl58@cornell.edu