

History 201AM  
Spring 2001  
4044

Thursday, 1:00-3:50  
HSSB

## **Issues in Asian American History**

### **Instructor**

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### **Office Hours**

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.,  
and by appointment, HSSB 4218

### **The Problem**

Asian Americans are currently the fastest-growing population of color in the United States, and for a century and a half they have been important to many aspects of mainstream American history and identity. In their encounters with Asian Americans, other Americans have written and rewritten citizenship laws; defined and redefined the rules for property holding; shaped and reshaped marriage laws and customs. Asian Americans have been central to the White American construction of The Other. More than a hundred thousand Asian Americans have been incarcerated on account of their race. Paradoxically, in the second half of the twentieth century, Asian Americans came to be viewed by some as a model minority, a testament to the successful absorptive powers of White American society and culture. At the same time, Asian Americans remain eternal aliens, even to the fifth generation. This seminar introduces the student to the substantial literature of Asian American history and examines several historiographical problems, with emphasis on lived experience as well as community and extracommunity issues.

### **Preparation**

This seminar is open to any graduate student in history or a related field. It is presumed that the student will come to the course with a modest background in Asian American history, such as can be gleaned by reading one of the following introductory texts:

Ronald Takaki, *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*, rev. ed. (New York: Penguin, 1998)

Sucheng Chan, *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History* (Boston: Twayne, 1991)

### **Outlines and Reports**

Students will be asked to write outlines of the main readings prior to each week's class meeting. Each student will be asked to read two books from the recommended list and report on them sometime during the quarter.

## Schedule of Topics and Readings

### Week 1. Interpretations

Gary Y. Okihiro, *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1994)

Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts* (Durham, N.C.: Duke UP, 1996), Chapters 1-4

Sau-ling C. Wong, "Transnationalization Reconsidered: Asian American Cultural Criticism at a Theoretical Crossroads," *Amerasia Journal*, 21.1-2 (1995), 1-27

Jonathan Okamura, "Why There Are No Asian Americans in Hawai'i," *Social Process in Hawai'i*, 2nd ed., ed. Peter Manicas (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1995), 243-60

#### *Recommended:*

Paul Spickard, *Japanese Americans: The Formation and Transformations of an Ethnic Group* (New York: Twayne, 1996)

Lucie Cheng and Edna Bonacich, *Labor Immigration under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States before World War II* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1984)

Roger Daniels, *Asian America: Chinese and Japanese in the United States Since 1850* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1988)

Lynn Pan, *The Encyclopedia of the Overseas Chinese* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 1999)

Bill Ong Hing, *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 1993)

### Week 2. First-Wave Emigration, Immigration, and Settlement: Chinese and Japanese

Yuji Ichioka, *The Issei: The World of the First Generation Japanese Immigrants* (New York: Free Press, 1988)

George Anthony Peffer, *If They Don't Bring Their Women Here: Chinese Female Immigration before Exclusion* (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1999)

#### *Recommended:*

John Kuo Wei Tchen, *New York Before Chinatown: Orientalism and the Shaping of American Culture, 1776-1882* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins U Press, 1999)

Sucheng Chan, *This Bittersweet Soil: The Chinese in California Agriculture* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1986)

Clarence Glick, *Sojourners and Settlers: Chinese Migrants in Hawai'i* (Honolulu: U of Hawai'i Press, 1980)

Alan Moriyama, *Imingaisha: Japanese Emigration Companies and Hawai'i* (Honolulu: U of Hawai'i Press, 1985)

Mitziko Sawada, *Tokyo Life, New York Dreams: Urban Japanese Visions of America, 1890-1924* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1996)

Mary Roberts Coolidge, *Chinese Immigration* (New York: Holt, 1909)

Maxine Hong Kingston, *China Men* (New York: Knopf, 1980)

Yong Chen, *Chinese San Francisco, 1850-1943: A Transpacific Community* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 2000)

### **Week 3. First-Wave Emigration, Immigration, and Settlement: Filipinos, South Asians, Koreans**

Read two of these three books:

Bruno Lasker, *Filipino Immigration to the Continental United States and to Hawai`i* (Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1931)

Karen I. Leonard, *Making Ethnic Choices: Punjabi Mexican Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1993)

Wayne Patterson, *The Ilse: First-Generation Korean Immigrants in Hawai`i, 1903-1973* (Honolulu: U of Hawai`i Press, 2000)

*Recommended:*

Joan M. Jensen, *Passage from India: Asian Indian Immigrants in North America* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1988)

Wayne Patterson, *The Korean Frontier in America: Immigration to Hawai`i, 1896-1910* (Honolulu: U of Hawai`i Press, 1988)

### **Week 4. Anti-Asian Movements and Asian American Responses**

Roger Daniels, *The Politics of Prejudice: The Anti-Japanese Movement in California and the Struggle for Japanese Exclusion* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1962)

Andrew Gyory, *Closing the Gate: Race, Politics, and the Chinese Exclusion Act* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina Press, 2000)

*Recommended:*

Stuart C. Miller, *The Unwelcome Immigrant: The American Image of the Chinese, 1785-1885* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1969)

Alexander Saxton, *The Indispensable Enemy: Labor and the Anti-Chinese Movement in California* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1971)

Elmer C. Sandmeyer, *The Anti-Chinese Movement in California* (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1991; orig. 1939)

Sucheng Chan, *Entry Denied: Exclusion and the Chinese Community in America, 1882-1943*

Charles McClain, *In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle for Civil Rights in 19th-Century America* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1994)

Gary Okihiro, *Cane Fires: The Anti-Japanese Movement in Hawai`i* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1991)

Lucy E. Salyer, *Laws Harsh as Tigers: Chinese Immigrants and the Shaping of Modern Immigration Law* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina Press, 1995)

Michael Kioni Dudley and Keoni Kealoha Agard, *A Call for Hawaiian Sovereignty* (Honolulu: Honolulu: Na Kane O Ka Malu Press, 1990)

Lilikala Kame`eleihiwa, *Native Land and Foreign Desires* (Honolulu: Bishop Museum, 1992)

Robert G. Lee, *Orientalism: Asian Americans in Popular Culture* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1999)

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1978)

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2000)

### **Week 5. The World of Work**

Chris Friday, *Organizing Asian American Labor: The Pacific Coast Canned-Salmon Industry* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1994)

Ronald Takaki, *Pau Hana: Plantation Life and Labor in Hawai`i* (Honolulu: U of Hawai`i Press, 1984)

*Recommended:*

- Carlos Bulosan, *America Is In the Heart* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1973; orig. 1946)
- Craig Scharlin and Lilia V. Villanueva, *Philip Vera Cruz* (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1992)
- Peter Kwong, *Forbidden Workers: Illegal Chinese Immigrants and American labor* (New York: New Press, 1997)
- Peter Kwong, *Chinatown, N.Y.: Labor and Politics, 1930-1950* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1979)
- Renqiu Yu, *To Save China, To Save Ourselves: The Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance of New York* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1992)
- Ko-lin Chin, *Smuggled Chinese: Clandestine Immigration to the United States* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1999)
- Edna Bonacich and John Modell, *The Economic Basis of Ethnic Solidarity: Small Business in the Japanese American Community* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1980)

**Week 6. Pre-1965 Family and Community**

- Valerie Matsumoto, *Farming the Home Place* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell UP, 1993)
- Victor G. and Brett deBary Nee, *Longtime Californ' (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 1986)*

*Recommended:*

- Ruben Alcantara, *Sakada: Filipino Adaptation in Hawai'i* (Washington, DC: University Press of America 1981)
- E.S. Craighill Handy and Mary Kawena Puku'i, *The Polynesian Family System in Ka'u, Hawai'i* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1972)
- Paul R. Spickard, *Mixed Blood: Intermarriage and Ethnic Identity in Twentieth-Century America* (Madison: U of Wisconsin Press, 1989), Part I
- John Modell, *The Economics and Politics of Racial Accommodation: The Japanese in Los Angeles, 1900-1942* (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1977)
- Linda Tamura, *The Hood River Issei* (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1993)
- Sylvia Yanagisako, *Transforming the Past, Tradition and Kinship among Japanese Americans* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 1985)
- S. Frank Miyamoto, *Social Solidarity among the Japanese in Seattle* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1984; orig. 1939)
- Yong Chen, *Chinese San Francisco, 1850-1943: A Trans-Pacific Community* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 2000)
- Paul C. P. Siu, *The Chinese Laundryman* (New York: NYUP, 1987)
- James Loewen, *The Mississippi Chinese* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 1971)
- L. Eve Armentrout Ma, *Revolutionaries, Monarchists, and Chinatowns: Chinese Politics in the Americas and the 1911 Revolution* (Honolulu: U of Hawai'i Press, 1990)

**Week 7. Gender**

- Judy Yung, *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1995)
- Barbara Kawakami, *Japanese Immigrant Clothing in Hawai'i, 1865-1941* (Honolulu: U of Hawai'i Press, 1993)
- Laurie Mengel, "Issei Woman and Divorce in Hawai'i, 1885-1908," *Social Process in Hawai'i*, 38 (1997), 16-39

*Recommended:*

- Sonia Shah, ed., *Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire* (Boston: South End Press, 1997)
- Yen Le Espiritu, *Asian American Women and Men* (Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage, 1996)
- Mary Paik Lee, *Quiet Odyssey* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1990)
- Huping Ling, *Surviving on the Gold Mountain: A History of Chinese American women and Their Lives* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1998)
- Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* (New York: Knopf, reissue 1989)

**Week 8. Japanese Americans and World War II**

- Roger Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1993)
- Paul Spickard, "The Nisei Assume Power: The Japanese American Citizens League, 1941-1942," *Pacific Historical Review*, 52.2 (1983), 147-74

*Recommended:*

- Alice Yang Murray, ed., *What Did the Internment of Japanese Americans Mean?* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000)
- US Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, *Personal Justice Denied* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1997; orig. 1982)
- Michi Weglyn, *Years of Infamy* (New York: Morrow, 1976)
- Dorothy S. Thomas and Richard Nishimoto, *The Spoilage* (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1952)
- Yasuko Takezawa, *Breaking the Silence: Redress and Japanese American Ethnicity* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell UP, 1995)
- Richard S. Nishimoto, *Inside and American Concentration Camp*, ed. Lane Ryo Hirabayashi ((Tucson: U of Arizona Press, 1995)
- Lawson Fusao Inada, *Only What We Could Carry* (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2000)

**Week 9. Second and Third Generations**

- Eileen Tamura, *Americanization, Acculturation, and Ethnic Identity: The Nisei Generation in Hawai'i* (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1994)
- William Wei, *The Asian American Movement* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1993)

*Recommended:*

- Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club* (New York: Putnam, 1984)
- Jere Takahashi, *Nisei/Sansei: Shifting Japanese American Identities and Politics* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1997)
- Jade Snow Wong, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 1989; orig. 1945)
- Monica Sone, *Nisei Daughter* (Seattle: U of Washington Press, 19\_\_ ; orig. 1953)
- Yen Le Espiritu, *Asian American Panethnicity* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1992)
- David Yoo, *Growing Up Nisei: Race, Generation, and Culture Among Japanese Americans of California, 1924-1949* (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 2000)
- Donna K. Nagata, *Legacy of Injustice: Exploring the Cross-Generational Impact of the Japanese American Internment* (New York: Plenum, 1993)

**10. Immigration, Community, and Identity since 1965**

- Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1997)
- Nazli Kibria, *Family Tigh trope: The Changing Lives of Vietnamese Americans* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP, 1993)

*Recommended:*

- Min Zhou and James V. Gatewood, eds., *Contemporary Asian America* (New York: NYUP, 2000)
- Paul Ong, Edna Bonacich, and Lucie Cheng, eds., *The New Asian Immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1994)
- Mia Tuan, *Forever Foreigners or Honorary Whites? The Asian Ethnic Experience Today* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers UP, 1998)
- James M. Freeman, *Changing Identities: Vietnamese Americans, 1975-1995* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995)
- James M. Freeman, *Hearts of Sorrow: Vietnamese-American Lives* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 1989)
- Duong Van Mai Elliott, *The Sacred Willow: Four Generations in the Life of Vietnamese Family* (New York: Oxford, 1999)
- William A. Smalley, et al., *Mother of Writing: The origin and Development of a Hmong Messianic Script* (Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1990)
- Sucheng Chan, *Hmong Means Free: Life in Laos and America* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1994)
- Nancy Abelmann and John Lie, *Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1995)
- In-Jin Yoon, *On My Own: Korean Businesses and Race Relations in America* (Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1996)
- Illsoo Kim, *New Urban Immigrants: The Korean Community in New York* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP, 1981)
- Tonya Bishoff and Jo Rankin, eds., *Seeds from a Silent Tree: An Anthology By Korean Adoptees* (1997)
- Timothy Fong, *The First Suburban Chinatown* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1994)
- Peter Kwong, *The New Chinatown* (New York: Noonday, 1987)
- Bernard Wong, *Ethnicity and Entrepreneurship: The New Chinese Immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1998)
- Padma Rangaswamy, *Namasté America: Indian Immigrants in an American Metropolis* (University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 2000)
- Johanna Lessinger, *From the Ganges to the Hudson: Indian Immigrants in New York City* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995)
- Teresa Williams Leon and Cynthia Nakashima, eds., *The Sum of Our Parts: Mixed-Heritage Asian Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2001)
- Usha Welaratna, *Beyond the Killing Fields: Voices of Nine Cambodian Survivors in America* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford UP, 1993)
- Yen Le Espiritu, *Filipino American Lives* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1995)