Asian American Women: Theory and Experience

Spring 2011, AAS 151
TuTh 11:10 AM-12:30 PM, 104 Barrows

Asian American Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies

Instructor: Keiko Yamanaka, Ph.D.
e-mail: <yamanaka@berkeley.edu>
Office: Barrows 524
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00 PM, and by appointment

1. COURSE CONTENT

Asian women in America, be they immigrants or citizens, are subject to misunderstanding, misrepresentation and often mistreatment because of their gender and their ethnicity. In the past, they were excluded from immigration, declared to be ineligible for citizenship and discriminated against in the labor market. In recent years, they have become considered to be model minorities—quiet, intelligent and exotic. Such historical facts and contemporary images about Asian women highlight underlying American ideologies regarding Asians as peripheral to mainstream society, women as “the second sex” and Asian women as powerless under masculine control.

Where have these racial, class and gender ideologies come from in America? How do they affect women of color, particularly women of Asian descent? What have been, and will be, Asian women’s responses to these constraining ideologies and practices? By focusing on three major themes—theory, case studies and action, this course will pursue these questions in search of Asian women’s roots, identity and power in the United States.

2. REQUIRED READINGS

Course Reader: Available at Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft Way.

Textbooks: Available at Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Avenue, and on reserve in the Ethnic Studies Library, 30 Stephens Hall.


3. REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Abstract and Presentation of Reading Assignments (ungraded)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Case Study Team Presentation (ungraded)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Case Study Book Reviews, 15% each</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>1 Abstract and Presentation of the Life History Paper (ungraded)</td>
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<td>1 Life History Paper (comprising the Final Exam)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE COURSE, EACH STUDENT MUST COMPLETE ALL OF THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS LISTED ABOVE, AND EXPLAINED BELOW.

Class Attendance (20%):
You are required to attend every class, unless excused. Attendance policy will be announced later in class. An ungraded, one-paragraph statement, “Why I am taking this course” will be due on Tuesday 1/25.

1 Abstract and Presentation of Reading Assignment, Ungraded (10%):
Each Tuesday, one or two students will write, and present in class, an abstract of one of the two to four articles assigned for the week, and lead discussions based on that abstract. A sign-up sheet will be available during the first week of the semester. Instructions for writing the abstract and presenting it will be given later in class.

1 Case Study, Team Response, Ungraded (10%):
Each student will be a member of a team of classmates that will lead a class discussion on a topic presented in one of the two case studies (see below). All students are required to read the two case studies, and participate in discussions of the major topics and issues. A sign-up sheet will be available on the first week of the semester.

- Racing Romance.
- The Managed Hand.

2 Case Study Book Reviews, 15% each (a total of 30%):
After the team response of a case study, every student will write a review of the book in up to 3 pages. Instructions for book reviews will be provided later in class.

- Review of Racing Romance, due on Tuesday 3/8
- Review of The Managed Hand, due on Tuesday 4/26

1 Abstract and Presentation of the Life History Paper, Ungraded (5%)
You will submit an abstract, and present a summary, of your life history paper in class during Week 14 & 15 (week starting on April 26 and May 3, respectively). An abstract of Life History Paper is due on Tuesday 4/19.

1 Life History Paper, which comprises the Final Exam (25%):
You will write a “Life History Paper” of an immigrant woman from Asia in 10 to 12 pages. Detailed instructions will be given later in class. The paper is to be submitted in two Draft Stages (ungraded) and a Final Stage (graded, 25%), as scheduled below:

- Draft Stage 1, “Personal Story,” 3 to 5 pages; due on Tuesday 2/8
  Each student will have a 15-minute interview with the Professor after Draft Stage 1.
- Draft Stage 2, “Social Context,” 5 to 7 pages; due on 3/15
- Final Stage, “The Life History” (completed paper), 10 to 12 pages; due on Thursday 4/28. This paper will comprise the Final Exam.

4. GUEST LECTURES BY LOCAL NGOS & OTHER SPEAKERS
There will be presentations by speakers from non-profit, community organizations (non-governmental organizations [NGOs]) in the Bay Area. Other speakers will also be invited from the Berkeley campus and beyond. All students are required to attend all presentations. A one-paragraph response paper is encouraged to submit after each presentation.
5. OVERVIEW OF COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/18, 20</td>
<td>Goals of Study: Migration, Women’s Lives and Their Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/25, 27</td>
<td>International Migration: Theories, Processes and Consequences</td>
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<td>• One-paragraph statement, “Why I am taking this course” due on Tuesday 1/25 (ungraded)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/1, 3</td>
<td>History Part 1, 1840 to 1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/8, 10</td>
<td>History Part 2, Inter- to Post-WWII Periods</td>
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<td>• “Personal Story Paper,” due on Tuesday 2/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/15, 17</td>
<td>History Part 3, Post-1965 Period</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2/22, 24</td>
<td>Asian American Myths and Images</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/1, 3</td>
<td>Case Study 1, Lecture &amp; Team Response: Racing Romance</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/8, 10</td>
<td>Gays and Lesbians</td>
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<td>• Review of Racing Romance, due on Tuesday 3/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/15, 17</td>
<td>Local NGO Presentations</td>
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<td>• “Social Context Paper,” due on Tuesday 3/15</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3/21 to 25</td>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3/29, 31</td>
<td>Asian American Diasporas and Transnationalism</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4/5, 7</td>
<td>Diasporas and Transnationalism in the Asia-Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/12, 14</td>
<td>Case Study 2, Lecture &amp; Team Response, The Managed Hand</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>4/19, 21</td>
<td>Case Study 2, The Managed Hand, continued</td>
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<td>• An abstract of Life History Paper,” due on Tuesday 4/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/26, 28</td>
<td>Life History Presentations</td>
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<td>• Review of The Managed Hand, due on Tuesday 4/26</td>
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<td>• Life History Paper, due on Thursday, 4/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>5/3, 5</td>
<td>Reading/Review/Recitation Week</td>
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6. COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

** Exempt from Reading Assignment Presentation

Week 1, 1/18, 20

** Goals of Study: Migration, Women’s Lives and Their Agency

**Espiritu, Yen Le

**C. Wright Mills

Week 2, 1/25, 27

** International Migration: Theories, Processes and Consequences

- One-paragraph statement, “Why I am taking this course?” due on Tuesday 1/25 (ungraded)

**Castles, Stephen and Mark J. Miller

**Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo

**Kibria, Nazli

Week 3, 2/1, 3

** History Part 1, 1840 to 1930

Espiritu, Yen Le

Cheng, Lucie

Yamamoto, Hisaye

Week 4, 2/8, 10

** History Part 2, Inter- to Post-WWII Periods

- “Personal Story Paper,” due on Tuesday 2/8

Espiritu, Yen Le
Glenn, Evelyn Nakano

Matsumoto, Valerie

**Week 5, 2/17, 19**  
**History Part 3, Post-1965 Period**

Espiritu, Yen Le

Kibria, Nazli

Choy, Catherine Ceniza
2003 “To the point of no return: From exchange visitor to permanent resident,” Pp. 94-118 (Ch. 4), *Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History*.

Park, Kyeyoung

**Week 6, 2/22, 24**  
**Asian American Myths and Images**

Espiritu, Yen Le
2008 “Ideological Racism and Cultural Resistance: Constructing Our Own Images,” pp. 97-122 (Ch. 5) in *Asian American Women and Men*.

Espiritu, Yen Le

Daily California
1991/2 Sze, Hoyt, “Asian America that can say no,” (9/9/91); Ngai, Stella, “Apartheid of love,” (9/13/91); Sze, Hoyt, “In your face,” (9/16/91); Letters to the Editor (9/17/91); Beckerman, David, “You don’t know me,” (9/20/91); Letters to the Editor (9/25/91); Gilbert, Derrick, “Brothers got ‘Salsa Fever’ . . .: Black men, Chinana/Latina women, and interracial love,” (5/7/92); Aguirre, Julia, “The real issues behind ‘Salsa Fever,’” (6/3/92).

**Week 7, 3/1, 3**  
**Case Study 1, Lecture & Team Response: Racing Romance**
Week 8, 3/8, 10  
 **Gays and Lesbians**
- Review of *Racing Romance*, due on Tuesday 3/8

Takagi, Dana  

Jen, Eddie  

Week 9, 3/15, 17  
**Local NGO Presentations**
- “Social Context Paper,” due on Tuesday 3/15

Guest Lecture by Asian Women's Shelter, San Francisco  
Guest Lecture by Asian Immigrant Women Advocate, Oakland

3/21 to 25  
**Spring Recess**

Week 10, 3/29, 31  
**Asian American Diasporas and Transnationalism**

Anderson, Wanni W. and Robert G. Lee  

Dorais, Louis-Jaques  

Anderson, Wanni W.  

Maila, Sunaina  

Week 11, 4/5, 7  
**Diasporas and Transnationalism in the Asia-Pacific**

Castles, Stephen  
Walters, Johanna L.

Yamanaka, Keiko

Yamanaka, Keiko

Week 12, 4/12, 14 Case Study 2, Lecture & Team Response, The Managed Hand

Week 13, 4/19, 21 Case Study 2, The Managed Hand, continued
  • An abstract of Life History Paper,” due on Tuesday 4/19

Week 14, 4/26, 28 Life History Presentations
  • Review of The Managed Hand, due on Tuesday 4/26
  • Life History Paper, due on Thursday, 4/28

Week 15, 5/3, 5, 7 Reading/Review/Recitation Week

THE END