

HIST 1155-401/ ASAM 0102-401 Introduction to Asian American History

Fall Semester 2022
MW: 3:30pm-4:59pm

Professor Eiichiro Azuma
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Office Hours: MW: 1-3pm or by appointment
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Grader:

Peter Yu

This is a historical survey of Asian Pacific American experience from the mid-19th century to the present. This course will examine the diversities and commonalities of their migrant experiences in Hawai'i and the continental United States, as well as the complex position that Asian Americans occupy in present-day U.S. society and its race relations. A special attention will be paid to both domestic and international contexts of Asian American history.

I. Three Short Papers: 16 percent x 3 (48 %total)

The first paper (1500~1800 words/ Double space)

The following articles (Takaki, Yanagisako, and Hing) delve into some of the fundamental questions from various lenses when studying Asian American history: What is Asian America?; and Who is Asian American? Implicitly and explicitly, these articles introduce specific perspectives (analytical categories), including **race, gender, class (economic standing), ethnicity/culture, and generation (immigrant vs. native-born)**. **By borrowing these perspectives and analyzing the contention of the three authors, I would like you to discuss how we may frame a history of a people called "Asian Americans" as a unified but diverse experience.**

The paper must be written in a **scholarly fashion** with a clearly stated thesis in the introduction and a topic sentence in each paragraph, as well as appropriate citation information (Chicago-style: footnotes). Please seek assistance from the Penn's Writing Program if you want advice on technical and stylistic matters. PLEASE NOTE: THIS SHOULD NOT BE A SIMPLE OPINION PAPER!

Please analyze the articles below to construct your argument:

[Available in the Coursepack Reader]

1. Ronald Takaki, "The Centrality of Racism in Asian American History"
2. Sylvia Yanagisako, "Rethinking the Centrality of Racism in Asian American History"
3. Bill Ong Hing, "What Does It Mean to Be Asian American?"

All articles are from: Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 9-22, 29-33.

Paper due: September 28 (Wednesday): A submission after 5:00pm on September 29 will incur penalty.

The second paper (1500~1800 words max/ Double space) assignment asks you to analyze the contrasting/differing views about Japanese immigration around 1920. The authors of these primary sources (see below) represent the argument (public discourse) for Japanese exclusion, on the one hand, and the counter-argument and defense of Japanese immigrants, on the other. While analyzing their contrasting and differing contention, you are required to address the following questions. 1). How does McClatchy rationalize the exclusion of Japanese? What do you think constitute his definition of the true American in light of his discussion of Japanese unassimilability? Please pay special attention to what he seems to presume but rarely articulates especially from the standpoint of **race**, **religion**, and **culture/language**. 2). How does Kanzaki rationalize/justify Japanese presence in American society, and how does his definition of America/American differ from McClatchy's? What kind of **ideas** and **behaviors** (individual, not group, ones) does Kanzaki emphasize when he argues that Japanese are assimilating and hence should be treated as good members of American society? 3). How do their definitions of assimilation differ? Please only use the two articles below—and no other sources. THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN OPINION PAPER. It means that you do not need to take side, agree, or disagree with either author. Analyze (not just describe) their arguments.

V.S. McClatchy, "Japanese Residents Can Never Be Assimilated"

Kiichi Kanzaki, "Japanese Residents Are Assimilating"

(These articles are in the Bulkpack Reader.)

Paper due: October 19 (Wednesday)

In the third paper (1800-2200 pages max/ Double space) students are asked to relate some aspect of a personal or family experience to the larger context and general history of Asian Americans. Rather than giving random information and anecdotes, however, the life story paper should be structured around major themes/topics discussed in the readings. Please provide proper reference and citation for the source you draw from. **DO NOT USE INTERNET AS SOURCE.** You may interview your own family members (if they are Asian Americans), your Asian American acquaintances, or your Asian American friends (working adults) for the purpose of obtaining data and information for this paper.

Paper Due: December 8 (Wednesday)

II. Midterm and Final Examinations: 20 percent x 2 (40% total)

Both examinations will consist of multiple-choice questions, one-to-two paragraph identification questions, and an essay question. Each examination will count for 22 percent of your grade.

Tentatively, the in-class midterm examination is scheduled on **November 7 (Monday)**.

III. Reaction Papers/Attendance: 12 percent

Reaction paper (reading journal) will consist of your thoughts, comments, insights, and/or an evaluation of reading materials. You can write a journal in a casual manner, but please do not just summarize the readings. You should draw connections/distinctions between the assigned materials as well as from the lecture. A journal does not have to be lengthy; only a page or two is sufficient, but please type. **The instructor will collect your journal at or after the end of each “segment”; he will make an announcement for the journal deadline one week or so prior to that date. No email/online submission is accepted.** (See the schedule below for different theme-based “segments”; for example, the journal for Week 4-6: “Labor, Class, & Race” will be collected on or after Wednesday of Week 6.) No journal for Week 1 readings.

Attendance is required, and the instructor will frequently take attendance without notice.

In principle, only illness and family/personal emergencies are treated as excused absences. Please use the Course Absence Report (CAR) system to inform the instructor **in advance**; no email or after-the-fact illness report is accepted. For reasons other than medical issues and emergencies, prior approval must be obtained from the instructor.

The final course grade will be based on the following scale:

A+ = 99-100%	A = 95-98%	A- = 90-94%
B+ = 85-89%	B = 79-84%	B- = 73-78%
C+ = 67-72%	C = 61-66%	C- = 57-60%
D+ = 51-56%	D = 47-50%	
F = 0-46%		

Required Texts (all available for purchase at Penn University Bookstore: 3601 Walnut)

Bulosan, Carlos. *America Is In the Heart*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979).

Lee, Mary Paik. *Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1990).

Lee, Shelley Sang-Hee. *A New History of Asian America*. (New York: Routledge, 2014). (**Main textbook**)

Zia, Helen. *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* (New York, 2000).

Coursepack Reader: available for purchase at Campus Copy Center (3907 Walnut).

Week 1—Introduction: What is Asian American History, and Who’s Asian American?

Gary Okiihiro, *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1994), pp. 148-175.

Roger Daniels, “Neglect and Distortion of Asian Americans by American Historians,” in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 3-9.

Weeks 2-4—Early Emigration & Immigration in the International Context

Main Reading: Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, *A New History of Asian America* (New York: Routledge, 2014), pp. 5-62.

Lucie Chang. "Free, Indentured, Enslaved: Chinese Prostitutes in Nineteenth-Century America." In Chang and Edna Bonacich, ed., *Labor Immigration Under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States before World War II*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), pp. 402-430.

Carlos Bulosan. *America Is In the Heart*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979), pp. 1-93.

Weeks 4-6—Labor, Class & Race

Main Reading: Lee, *A New History of Asian America*, pp. 63-94.

Ronald Takaki, *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans* (Boston: Back Bay Books, 1998), pp. 132-176.

Edna Bonacich. "Asian Labor in the Development of California and Hawaii." In Edna Bonacich and Lucie Chang, ed. *Labor Immigration Under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States before World War II*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), pp. 130-182.

Carlos Bulosan. *America is in the Heart*. pp. 97-189.

First Short Paper Due (9/28: Wednesday)

Ronald Takaki, "The Centrality of Racism in Asian American History"; Sylvia Yanagisako, "Rethinking the Centrality of Racism in Asian American History"; Bill Ong Hing, "What Does It Mean to Be Asian American?," all in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 9-22, 29-33.

Weeks 6-8—Racism and Asian Immigrant Responses

Main Reading: Lee, *A New History of Asian America*, pp. 121-174.

Bill Ong Hing, *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990* (Stanford, 1993), pp. 17-42.

Megumi Dick Osumi. "Asians and California's Anti-Miscegenation Laws." In Nobuya Tsuchiya, ed. *Asian and Pacific American Experience: Women's Perspectives*. (Minneapolis: Asian/Pacific American Learning Resources Center, University of Minnesota, 1982), pp. 1-27.

Nayan Shah, "Between 'Oriental Depravity' and 'Natural Degenerates': Spatial Borderlands and the Making of Ordinary Americans," *American Quarterly* 57:3 (September 2005), pp. 703-725.

Carlos Bulosan. *America is in the Heart*, pp. 193-261.

Second Short Paper Due (10/19: Wednesday)

Read and Analyze V.S. McClatchy, "Japanese Residents Can Never Be Assimilated," and Kiichi Kanzaki, "Japanese Residents Are Assimilating," pp. 81-95.

Weeks 9-10—Community Formation, Women's Lives, and Second-Generation Dilemma

Main Reading: Lee, *A New History of Asian America*, pp. 95-120, 175-206.

Eun Sik Yang, "Korean Women of America: From Subordination to Partnership, 1903-1930," *Amerasia Journal* 11:2 (1984): 1-28.

Sucheng Chan, "Race, Ethnic Culture, and Gender in the Construction of Identities among Second Generation Chinese Americans, 1880s-1930s," in K. Scott Wong and Sucheng Chan, *Claiming America: Constructing Chinese American Identities during the Exclusion Era* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998), pp. 127-164.

"Connie Tirona Recalls Growing Up Filipino American (1930s and 1940s), 1995"; "Dora Yum Kim Recalls Growing Up in Korean American in Chinatown (1920s, 1930s, and 1940s), 1999"; and "Taishi Matsumoto Bemoans Limited Employment Opportunities for Nisei, 1937," in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 252-260.

Carlos Bulosan. *America is in the Heart*, pp. 265-327.

Midterm (In-Class Tentatively scheduled on 11/7: Monday)

Weeks 11-12—World War II & Early Cold War Years

Main Reading: Lee, *A New History of Asian America*, pp. 207-268.

Valerie Matsumoto. "Nisei Women and Resettlement during World War II." *Frontier* 8:1 (1984), pp. 6-14.

Mary Paik Lee. *Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1990), pp. 1-134.

"Franklin Woo Remembers Attacks on Chinese Immigrant Leftists Who Supported Communist China (1950s), 1973," and "Pei Chi Lie Recalls Why He Campaigned Against Communism as a Leader of the San Francisco Chinatown Branch of the Kuomintang Party (1950s), 1973," in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 336-340.

Weeks 12-15—Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement, and the Drastic Transformations of Asian America (No Class on Week 13: Thanksgiving Week)

Main Reading: Lee, *A New History of Asian America*, pp. 269-334.

James Freeman, *Hearts of Sorrow: Vietnamese American Lives*, pp. 7-24, 303-335.

"How It Feels to Be an Asian American," in Sucheng Chan, ed., *Vietnamese American 1.5 Generation: Stories of War, Revolution, Flight, and New Beginnings* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006), pp. 136-42.

Helen Zia, *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* (New York, 2000), pp. 55-81, 109-35, 166-223.

Deborah Woo, *Glass Ceilings and Asian Americans: The New Face of Workplace Barriers* (Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press, 2000), pp. 23-41.

Weeks 15-16—Contemporary Issues: Stereotypes, Diversity, and Contested Meanings of Asian American Panethnicity

Main Reading: Lee, *A New History of Asian America*, pp. 335-351.

Yen Le Espiritu, "Panethnicity and Asian American Activism," in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 442-449.

L. Ling-Chi Wang, "Asian Americans and Debates About Affirmative Action," in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 450-456.

James M. Freeman and Usha Welaranta, "Vietnamese and Cambodian Views of "Successful" Adjustment in America," in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 412-418.

"South Asians United Against Bigotry Following the 9-11 Attack on the World Trade Center, 2001," in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), pp. 502-503.

Nazli Kibria, "The Contested Meanings of 'Asian America': Racial Dilemmas in the Contemporary US," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 21:5 (Sept., 1998): 939-58.

Paul R. Spickard, "What Must I Be?" Asian Americans and the Question of Multiethnic Identity," *Amerasia Journal* 23:1 (1997): 43-60.

Third Short Paper Due (12/12: Monday)

Final Exam: the format and date will be announced later.