

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

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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 main stream 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.

Asian American Women and Men: Labor, Laws, and Love. Yen Le Espiritu, Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008. Second Edition.

Racing Romance: Love, Power, and Desire among Asian American/White Couples. Kumiko Nemoto, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009.

The Managed Hand: Race, Gender, and The Body in Beauty Service Work. Miliann Kang, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.

3. REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Percentage of Final Grade

Class Attendance	20%
1 Abstract and Presentation of Reading Assignments (ungraded)	10%
1 Case Study Team Presentation (ungraded)	10%
2 Case Study Book Reviews, 15% each	30%
1 Abstract and Presentation of the Life History Paper (ungraded)	5%
<u>1 Life History Paper (comprising the Final Exam)</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

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

- Week 1, 1/18, 20** **Goals of Study: Migration, Women's Lives and Their Agency**
- 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)
- Week 3, 2/1, 3** **History Part 1, 1840 to 1930**
- Week 4, 2/8, 10** **History Part 2, Inter- to Post-WWII Periods**
- "Personal Story Paper," due on Tuesday 2/8
- Week 5, 2/15, 17** **History Part 3, Post-1965 Period**
- Week 6, 2/22, 24** **Asian American Myths and Images**
- 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
- Week 9, 3/15, 17** **Local NGO Presentations**
- "Social Context Paper," due on Tuesday 3/15
- 3/21 to 25** **Spring Recess**
- Week 10, 3/29, 31** **Asian American Diasporas and Transnationalism**
- Week 11, 4/5, 7** **Diasporas and Transnationalism in the Asia-Pacific**
- 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** **Reading/Review/Recitation Week**

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

2008 "Labor, Laws, and Love." Pp. 1-18 (Ch. 1) in *Asian American Women and Men*.

**C. Wright Mills

1959 "The promise," Pp. 3-24 in *The Sociological Imagination*. London: Oxford University Press.

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

1998 "The migratory process and the formation of ethnic minorities," Pp. 21-49, Chapter 2, *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. New York: The Guilford Press.

**Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo

1994 "Gendered immigration," Chapter 7, *Gendered Transitions: Mexican Experiences of Immigration*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Kibria, Nazli

1993 "The Family Tightrope: Gender Relations," (Ch. 5) Pp. 108-143, in *Family Tight Rope: The Changing Lives of Vietnamese Americans*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 3, 2/1, 3 **History Part 1, 1840 to 1930**

Espiritu, Yen Le

2008 "Stretching Gender, Family, and Community Boundaries, 1840s-1930s." Pp. 19-48 (Ch. 2) in *Asian American Women and Men*.

Cheng, Lucie

1984 "Free, indentured, enslaved: Chinese prostitutes in nineteenth-century America," Pp. 402-434 in *Labor Immigration Under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States Before World War II*, edited by Lucie Cheng and Edna Bonacich. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Yamamoto, Hisaye

1989 "Seventeen syllables," Pp. 285-299 in *Growing Up Asian American*, edited by Marcia Hong, New York: Avon books.

Week 4, 2/8, 10 **History Part 2, Inter- to Post-WWII Periods**

- "Personal Story Paper," due on Tuesday 2/8

Espiritu, Yen Le

2008 "Changing Lives: World War II and the Postwar Years," Pp. 49-70 (Ch. 3) in *Asian American Women and Men*.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano

1983 "Split household, small producer and dual wage earner: An analysis of Chinese-American family strategies." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, Vol. 45 (February): 35-46.

Matsumoto, Valerie

2004 "Japanese American women during the World War II," in Linda Trinh Võ et al., (eds.), pp. 35-54, *Asian American Women: The Frontier Reader*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

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

Espiritu, Yen Le

2008 "Contemporary Asian America: Immigration, Increasing Diversity, and Changing Resources," Pp. 71-95 (Ch. 4) in *Asian American Women and Men*.

Kibria, Nazli

1993 "Vietnamese Roots," (Ch. 3) Pp. 38-72, in *Family Tight Rope: The Changing Lives of Vietnamese Americans*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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

1997 "The rise of sisters in Korean America: The shift to women-centered kin organization," in Pp. 94-112 (Ch. 5), *The Korean American Dream*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

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

2008 "Beyond Dualisms: Constructing an Imagined Community," Pp. 123-135 (Ch. 6) in *Asian American Women and Men*.

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

1994 "Maiden voyage: Excursion into sexuality and identity politics in Asian America." *Amerasia Journal*, Vol. 20, No. 1: 1-18.

Jen, Eddie

1996 "Let there be beauty," *The Daily Californian*, August 26; "Dream, dream, dream," *The Daily Californian*, September 4; "Drag 101: You can be a beauty queen too," *The Daily Californian*, September 11; "Got Rice?" *The Daily Californian*, September 18; "It's all about me!," *The Daily Californian*, September 25; "First kiss," *The Daily Californian*, October 2; "It's snowing in Berkeley," *The Daily Californian*, October 9.

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, Wann W. and Robert G. Lee

2005 "Asian American Displacements," Pp. 3-22 in Wann W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (eds.), *Displacements and Diasporas: Asian in the Americas*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Dorais, Louis-Jaques

2005 "From refugees to transmigrants: The Vietnamese in Canada," Pp. 170-193 in Wann W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (eds.), *Displacements and Diasporas: Asian in the Americas*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Anderson, Wann W.

2005 "Between necessity and choice: Rhode Island Lao American women," Pp., 194-226 in Wann W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (eds.), *Displacements and Diasporas: Asian in the Americas*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Maila, Sunaina

2005 "Mixed desires: Second-generation Indian Americans and the politics of youth culture," Pp. 227-247, in Wann W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (eds.), *Displacements and Diasporas: Asian in the Americas*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

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

Castles, Stephen

1999 "Citizenship and the other in the age of migration," Pp. 27-48 in *Globalization and Citizenship in the Asia-Pacific* edited by Alastair Davidson and Kathleen Weekley, London: McMillan Press.

Walters, Johanna L.

2005 "Transnational family strategies and education in the contemporary Chinese diaspora," *Global Networks*, Vol. 5, No. 4: 359-377.

Yamanaka, Keiko

2005 "Changing family structure of Nepalese transmigrants in Japan: Split-households and dual-wage earners," *Global Networks*, Vol. 5, No. 4: 337-358.

Yamanaka, Keiko

1997 "Return migration of Japanese Brazilian women: Household strategies and search for the 'homeland,'" Pp. 11-34 in Diane Baxter and Ruth Krufeld (eds.), *Beyond Boundaries: Selected Papers on Refugees and Immigrants*, Volume V, Arlington: American Anthropological Association.

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