

COURSE TITLE: EXPLORING ASIAN HISTORY & CULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 1000

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This is an interdisciplinary study of Asian civilizations to major developments in the histories and cultures of the monsoon region. Topics for discussions in this class will emphasize the intellectual, cultural, social and political factors, which shaped the civilizations of Asia and the Pacific. The course seeks to understand the civilizations of the monsoon region from the Prehistoric era until the period of Europe's expansion. The Asian countries covered in this course will be mainly of India, China, and Japan. However, research topics and presentations toward the end of the semester will help us to delve deeply into various subject areas chosen by the members of the class.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify and describe major historical events and essential cultural traits of the monsoon countries.
2. Interpret regional characteristics of the monsoon region within the larger global context.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of history through oral presentations and writing.
4. Examine patterns of thought and belief, values and worldviews, institutions and personalities, event and experiences, and forms of creative expression that contributed to the distinctive civilizations of Asia.
5. Produce an informed and articulated evaluation on a scholarly researched monograph of a chosen topic.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*
- Colin Mason, *A Short History of Asia* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).
- Paul A. Cohen, *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past*

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

- Attendance and active participation in the discussion (10%)
- Ten (10) of twelve (12) quizzes (30%)
- A "review of literature" paper (30%)
- Oral presentation (15%)
- Book review (15%)

COURSE TITLE: Exploring Asian Pacific America

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 1500

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

CORE REQUIREMENT: Fulfills the STUDIES IN AMERICAN DIVERSITY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Relying on an interdisciplinary reading list and a comparative framework, this course will provide a survey of the Asian Pacific American (APA) experience in the United States. The first part of the course will examine the history of APAs from their arrival to the United States during the mid-nineteenth century to the 1960s. While recognizing the unique historical experiences of each of the major APA groups, this part of the course will focus on the following themes that permeate the “first-wave” experience: the role of imperialism in shaping the conditions of emigration in Asia and Pacific Islands, the development of agrarian and industrial capitalism in the United States and Hawaii, the politics of race and ethnicity in the building of the nation, and the role of U.S./Asia international relations in shaping the APA experience. The first part of the course will end with the examination of World War II and the Civil Rights Movement—two historical events that fundamentally changed the social realities of APAs and ushered in the contemporary experience. The second part of the course will examine the contemporary APA experience from a topical perspective. The topics for this semester include identity and gender politics, new immigrant communities, economic integration, and political mobilization.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A critical understanding of the historical contributions of Asian Pacific Americans in the development of U.S.

Appreciation of the ethnic and social diversity of APAs in contemporary America.

Appreciation of contemporary APA social movements, cultural production, and identity formation.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Carlos Bulosan. *America Is in the Heart*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014.

Ronald Takaki, *Stranger from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. Boston: Back Bay Books, 1998.

Helen Zia, *Asian American Dream*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

In-class midterm and final examinations. A 15-page research paper on the APA experience.

COURSE TITLE: Asian Pacific American Literature

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 2400

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

A survey of Asian Pacific American writers and their literature, using critical analysis of autobiographies, short stories, novels, poetry, essays, and films.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Describe the major themes and tropes of Asian American literature.
- Critically engage with the strategies Asian American authors utilize to explore identity formation.
- Analyze and interpret literature as historically-situated cultural texts.
- Write critically and comparatively about the themes and tropes of Asian American literature

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

none

REQUIRED TEXTS:

No-No Boy, John Okada – (University of Washington Press 1978 version or 2014 E-book)

The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston – (Vintage Reissue 1998)

America is Not The Heart, Elaine Castillo – (Penguin Books, 2019)

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous, Ocean Vuong (Penguin Press, 2019)

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

The course work will be focused on reading, reading responses and in-person and on-line discussions; two short close-reading papers, a midterm and a final comparative paper.

COURSE TITLE: Exploring Asian Societies

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 2200

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

The course explores sociocultural dynamics in modern and contemporary Asia. We will question: How did Asian societies adapt to modernization, Cold War, and globalization? How have modernization and globalization transformed traditional social, cultural, gender, and religious dynamics in Asia? How do peculiar social structures, cultural patterns, and affective dynamics condition individual, social, and institutional behaviors in Asian societies? By discussing these questions using academic literature in Anthropology and Sociology, students will develop critical insights into contemporary social and cultural phenomena across Asia.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Examine peculiar social structures, cultural practices, and affective dynamics that condition cultural and social phenomena in contemporary Asia.
2. Analyze social and cultural changes in Asia within the contexts of modernization, (post)colonization, Cold War, and globalization
3. Develop foundational knowledge of Asian societies and cultures, preparing them for advanced-level social studies ASPA courses.
4. Understand basic social scientific concepts, methods, and analyses used in the anthropological and sociological literature on Asian societies and cultures.
5. Cultivate critical insights into Asian societies and cultures and apply them to analyze current social and cultural phenomena.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: No / Basic interests in Social Sciences (Anthropology & Sociology) literature and Asian societies and cultures

REQUIRED TEXTS: Digital copies of the class readings will be provided.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

For each class, 20-30 page reading will be required for class learning and discussion. The class will run as an open seminar, so active participation—listening, asking questions, and sharing thoughts with classmates—will be expected. Students will rotate to participate in in-class presentations of class readings, topic reviews, and research projects.

COURSE TITLE: SS: Contemporary Issues of Asian Pacific Americans

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 2500

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: FACULTY

CORE AREA: FND: Understanding Human Behavior

FLAGGED: Engaged Learning

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This multidisciplinary course engages the disciplines of sociology, ethnic studies, American studies/history, global gender/feminist studies, and critical race theory to provide students with an understanding of contemporary Asian Pacific American community issues. More specifically, this course explores issues of immigration, diaspora, intersectionality, economic integration, generational dynamics, and (popular) cultural and religious life. Moving beyond reductive, homogenizing stereotypes of Asian Americans – such as of the “model minority,” which did not predict such phenomena as the wave of anti-Asian Covid-19 racism or of disproportionate rates of Covid-19 contraction and hospitalization for Pacific Islander Americans – we will explore different social theories and research findings that explain the current status of Asian Pacific Americans. As a grasp of Asian Pacific American communities is not possible without understanding US relations with the country of the ancestors or from whence the first generations came, this course always considers advanced globalization (global neoliberal capitalism), (neo)imperialism and (neo)colonialism, diaspora, transnationalism, and the power of Kpop/Khop. In addition to these macro-level forces, we will address issues of agency and pushback, such as fighting anti-Asian Pacific American environmental racism, the gendered policing of daughters, and using hip hop to resist. By way of this course, students will be encouraged to become participant-observers and their own social theorists in relation to Asian Pacific American communities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Will know the brief histories and contemporary situations of Asian Pacific American communities as case studies
- What “transnational/diasporic” is and how it reflects the current world we live in
- Will identify and understand how people’s global situations and migrations shape APAs in their everyday (gendered) lives, families, workplaces, romance
- Will identify and understand the intersection, interrelation, and interaction (i.e., the “relationality”) between race, gender/sexuality, class for APAs, also within a larger matrix of domination
- Understand all of the above in relation to inequality/injustice, capitalism, ideology, discourse, resistance, and various levels of culture, including pop culture (e.g, music like Kpop, hip hop, etc)

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ehrenreich, Barbara & Arlie R. Hochschild. 2003. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Espiritu, Yen Le. 2003. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Das Gupta, Monisha. 2006. *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the US*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Kim, Nadia. 2021. *Refusing Death: Immigrant Women and the Fight for Environmental Justice in L.A.* Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Trask, Haunani-Kay. *From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawaii* (2nd edition). Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Verbal/written participation

Papers, exams (possible presentation)

COURSE TITLE: Popular Culture in East Asia

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 3100

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This course examines and explores East Asian pop culture as sites of cultural interaction. Instead of taking the traditional approach in examining cultural products based on their countries of origin, this course will focus on products, concepts, and ideas that influence, travel between, or blend together cultures through cinema, television dramas, animation, music, social media, etc. The materials of focus were produced in various East Asian locations (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea). This course aims to direct students into considering East Asia as a region with constant cultural, political, and business interactions in the past and present. While we examine some landmark works from the areas listed above, we will also be following the trends and themes that are shaping East Asian pop culture today via academic journal articles, contemporary news coverage, YouTube, and other social media.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Introduce students to landmark works from East Asia that have shaped the development of pop culture.
2. Learn how to analyze primary and secondary literature on different types of texts and media. The readings will expose students to different perspectives on how scholars analyze popular culture, ranging from cultural, historical, anthropological, and gender studies perspectives.
3. Successfully write an argumentative essay that includes a thesis, proper citations and quotes.
4. Effectively present group projects.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/a

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All course materials are available on Brightspace unless otherwise noted.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Attendance & Participation (25%)
Midterm Project (15%)
Paper (25%)
Activity Lead (5%)
Trending on YouTube (5%)
Final Creative Project (20%)

COURSE TITLE: Asian Mythology

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 3005

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

CORE AREA: Interdisciplinary Connect

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This course is intended to familiarize students with the myths and folklore of Asia. Selected mythical narratives from India, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan will be examined. The goal of this course is to provide you with a solid introduction of Asian myths, spiritual traditions, and belief systems in Asia with a comparative overview of key myths in Asia for further study and comparison. The lecture and reading materials will be examined through psychological, philosophical, and cultural approaches. The course utilizes a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of Asian mythology, including religion, visual culture, and architecture.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Identify reoccurring themes in the myths and legends of Asia
- Appreciate and recognize the ways that stories and myths have been orally transmitted and performed across the regions of Asia
- Utilize a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of Asian mythology
- Analyze features, symbols, and belief systems of the chosen story in class, on exams, and through oral communication
- Understand the historical tension and interplay between society and myth

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Selected PDF articles on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

PAPER: 25%

MYTH PRESENTATION: (8-10 minutes): 10%

SHORT REFLECTIONS (x4): (double-spaced, 1-2 pages): 15%

MIDTERM/FINAL: 50%

COURSE TITLE: Economic and Political Issues in Contemporary Asia

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 3200

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

What is happening in Asia today? How are these political and economic events related to the historical formation of Asian societies? How are Asian countries and people interconnected with one another to shape current events? More importantly, what is Asia, and why and how does Asia matter to our everyday lives here?

This three-part course introduces a few crucial moments, places, people, things, and ideas that have shaped Asian societies in the 20th and 21st centuries. The first part focuses on the colonial and imperial orders in the early 20th century and how they affect the current political debates in Asia. The second part examines the series of wars and violence in mid-20th century Asia and lingering trauma. The third part explores the economic development in late 20th and early 21st century Asia and its implication on gender, class, and culture. Reading and discussing the literature on Asian societies in Anthropology, Sociology, History, Cultural Studies, and Political Science, students will build up interdisciplinary insight into the current events in Asia and reflect on their relationship with Asian societies, people, and cultures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the historical, social, and cultural contexts behind current issues in contemporary Asia
2. Understand the conditions and dynamics of colonialism, Cold War, and neoliberalism across Asian countries
3. Develop critical insights into “Asia” based on qualitative social scientific literature (Anthropology, Sociology, History, Cultural Studies)
4. Conduct independent research on current issues in contemporary Asia using interdisciplinary methods and perspectives

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: No required background

REQUIRED TEXTS: Digital copies of the course reading materials will be made available for students through the William H. Hannon Library.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

The credit standard for this 4-unit standard 15-week course is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit), including:

- Scheduled course meetings
- Regular academic reading and writing
- In-class presentations
- Independent ethnographic research that may require off-campus activities

APAM 4400: Asian American Visual Culture and Art

Professor: Mya Chau, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Asian Americans have been major contributors in the development of American culture and in its various art circles. This course offers a critical examination of Asian American visual culture and artistic expressions, focusing on American artists of Asian descent in the early 19th century to present, as well as the representation and role of Asian Americans in film and television. In this course, we will explore how Asian American artists actively engaged in aesthetic interactions and artistic expressions. We seek to ask the following questions: in what ways have Asian American artists themselves been cultural translators, transmitters, and interpreters of the American experience? How does visual culture inform viewers about Asian American history and the social practices of that particular time? How have artists interpreted the actual lived experience of Asian Americans through visual culture across time and generations? Rethinking Asian American visual culture and contemporary American culture, our discussion focuses on the tensions among history, memory, and performance.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be introduced to various Asian American artists and filmmakers and develop respect for individual and group difference in their interaction with others
- Students will be exposed to the most important works of Asian American art and architectural monuments
- Students will be exposed to the various Asian American artistic expressions, architectural, and cultural pursuits related to the development of American culture and its various art circles
- Students will be able to identify important narratives and artworks in Los Angeles museums related to Asian American experiences
- Students will be familiar with artistic perspectives related to tensions among history-making, memory, and performance

Texts (required):

1. The course Brightspace site is accessible to you through your MYLMU portal or www.mylmuconnect.lmu.edu. All readings, video lectures, assignment prompts, and power points will be posted on Brightspace.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

PARTICIPATION: 15%

MIDTERM EXAM: 25%

FINAL EXAM: 30% -

COURSE TITLE: Environmental Justice in Asia

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 3201

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

Environmental Justice in Asia introduces students to the multilayered histories of environmental crises in diverse locations and communities across Asia, ranging from the impacts of the oil and gas industry, the rise in plantation monocrops and associated health risks, flooding that disproportionately affects Asia's urban poor, nationalized water control projects, access to clean air, and climate migration and displacement. These crises grant urgency behind the ethical framework of environmental justice in an interconnected, global Asia. An important element of our examination of environmental justice in Asia is the creative imagination of just futures. Towards this aim, we will engage with and study the creative works of Asian artists, performers, writers, and activists who reflect upon right and wrong, amplify underrepresented voices, and interrogate just action when faced with environmental crisis.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the relationships between human society, the environment, and justice
- Engage different frameworks of justice to explain environmental issues in Asia
- Apply ethical theories of justice to construct arguments for just action in Asia
- Value alternate modes of expression when envisioning just action and future possibility

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Selections from the following (among others):

Biersack, Aletta, and James B. Greenberg. *Reimagining Political Ecology*. Duke University Press, 2006.

Chao, Sophie. *In the Shadow of the Palms: More-than-Human Becomings in West Papua*. Duke University Press, 2022.

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*. The University of Chicago Press, 2021.

Peet, Richard, and Michael Watts. *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2004.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Subject to change:

- **Professionalism (15%):** Class attendance and meaningful participation in our class discussion. Student self-evaluation forms will be maintained throughout the semester to encourage accountability.
- **Discussion Board (15%):** Weekly engagement with the discussion board will be assessed on timely completion, thoughtful responses to the reading, and respectful/generative replies to their peers.
- **Reading Responses (20%):** Biweekly reading responses grant space for students to explore topics covered across the two-week period with reduced stress on “judgement” of their ideas. Students must show adept engagement with the readings in relation to each other, not in isolation. What is important is not “correct” or “incorrect” readings of the materials, but rather a demonstration of critical thinking and engagement with materials altogether as students work through the concepts covered.
- **Midterm and Final Essays (30%):** Exam essays will be assessed based on conceptual comprehension and integration of course readings in answering the provided prompts. Students must demonstrate critical thinking and argument, rather than description and summary.
- **Case Study Research Presentation (20%):** Groups of 3-4 students will identify and research an example of an environmental injustice in Asia. This assignment will be assessed based on the organization of each group’s oral presentation, the distribution of speaking amongst group members, and the coverage of information critical to understanding the case study and its implications for the environmental justice ethical frame. Presentations must encompass historical context, moral implications for past and potential decisions, and innovative arguments based on ethical frameworks of justice.

COURSE TITLE: Immigration and Los Angeles

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 4500

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: FACULTY

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

CORE AREA: American Cultures Requirement (Old Core)
Interdisciplinary Connections (New Core)

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This two-part course examines the U.S. immigration experience with a research focus on the Los Angeles region. The first part of the course will take a historical approach and examine the role of immigration in building the United States as a multiethnic nation. This section of the course will emphasize the role of laws and policies that differentially shaped the lives of ethnic and racial groups and resulted in dramatic and profound patterns of inequality. The second part of the course will take a sociological approach to contemporary immigration. This section of the course will be organized topically, and we will cover issues ranging from migration and settlement, cultural and language adaptation, economic mobility and political empowerment, the experience of second generation, and the continuing political debate surrounding immigration policy.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will gain a greater understanding of the U.S. immigration experience and its impact on Los Angeles. Student will also conduct original research on an immigrant community in Los Angeles.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND : None.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Takaki, Ronald. *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*. Boston: Back Bay Books, 1993.

Portes, Alejandro and Ruben Rumbaut. *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. 4th Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

There will be an in-class midterm examination and an in-class final examination. A 15-page research paper on an immigrant community in Los Angeles is also required.

COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Chinese Cinema

COURSE NUMBER: AAAS 3170

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

CORE ATTRIBUTE: Interdisciplinary Connections

INSTRUCTOR: Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course examines the formation and transformation of contemporary Chinese cinema through the production, circulation, and consumption of Chinese-language films in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States. These locations feature distinct historical experience, linguistic traditions, political concerns, social issues, and cultural practices that contribute to a diverse spectrum of what “Chineseness” means and entails. Situating Chinese filmmaking practices in their local, national, and global contexts, this course studies issues relating to cultural memories, political reforms, gender and sexuality, migration, urbanization, environmentalism, (post)colonialism, and globalization. Through readings and discussion, students will understand Chinese cinema not only as a unique genre of arts but also as a powerful social and political artifact. All films are subtitled in English.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

Describe the stylistic characteristics, sociopolitical and cultural concerns of major filmmakers in contemporary Chinese cinema

Interpret the cinematic languages by which Chinese filmmakers articulate their ideas and engage with sociopolitical issues

Produce in-depth written analysis, oral presentations, and creative projects about contemporary Chinese cinema

Demonstrate deeper insights into Chinese history, culture and society.

Value the perspectives gained from the class to become better informed and critically engaged global citizens.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: No Prerequisite

REQUIRED TEXTS

Michael Berry, *Speaking in Images*. Columbia University Press, 2004. Additional readings available on Brightspace

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Active participation, quizzes, response papers, in-class presentations, and final paper.