

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Asian Pacific American Studies

COURSE NUMBER: APAM 1117.01-02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 3:40 pm – 5:20 pm/6:00 pm-5:40 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Qianru Li

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: TBD

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

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

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Asian Pacific American Literature

COURSE NUMBER: APAM 2371.01-02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 9:55am-11:35am/MW 11:50am-1:30pm

INSTRUCTOR: Neelanjana Banerjee

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: Transpacific Korea

COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 3998.04/APAM 3998.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/R 11:50 AM – 1:30 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Heangjin Park

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

How can we understand Korean society, not within a narrow scope of South Korea but through transpacific mobility and connections of Korean people, commodities, and cultures? Drawing upon the literature in Anthropology, Sociology, History, and Media Studies, the course aims to develop students' perspectives on mobilities, connections, and dynamics that have shaped North/South Korea and overseas Korean communities. Through class reading and discussions, students will contextualize the implication of (post)colonialism, cold war, and neoliberalism and build up the knowledge of "Korea" in global contexts. Through film presentation and independent ethnographic research, students will analyze and reflect on transnational connections, inequalities, and discrimination beyond Euro-American contexts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand epistemological orientation, research methods, and analytic frames in Anthropology, Sociology, History, and Media Studies
2. Applying interdisciplinary approaches and knowledge to independent research
3. Developing critical perspectives into "Korea" beyond South Korea
4. Understand the historical, social, and cultural contexts behind current issues in Korean societies
5. Understand the conditions and dynamics of globalization in Korean societies and other countries

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

COURSE TITLE: SS: Contemporary Issues of Asian Pacific Americans

COURSE NUMBER: APAM 2417.01; CRN #: 76061/APAM 2417.02; CRN#:76062

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 9:55 – 11:35am/TR 1:45pm-3:25pm

INSTRUCTOR: DR. NADIA KIM

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.

Sharma, Nitasha. 2010. *Hip Hop Desis: South Asian Americans, Blackness, and a Global Race Consciousness*. 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: Immigration and Los Angeles

COURSE NUMBER: APAM 4350.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MWF 1:40-2:50 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Edward Park

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: Senior Thesis

COURSE NUMBER: APAM 5000.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Park

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This is the capstone course for students who are minoring in Asian Pacific American Studies. It will provide them with the opportunity to work closely with the instructor to explore primary and secondary sources on the Asian diaspora and the Asian Pacific American experience as well as to develop and complete a thesis based upon original research.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To analyze and discuss primary and secondary documents and sources to gain an in-depth comprehension of the different approaches and methodologies that have been used to examine the Asian Pacific American experience; to formulate a specific topic and to write a thesis based upon original research.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

Lower-division and upper-division classes in Asian Pacific American Studies.

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Students will be evaluated by their class attendance and the successful completion of their theses.

COURSE TITLE: SS: Asian American Visual Culture & Art

COURSE NUMBER: APAM 4998.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/Th 6:00 pm – 7:40 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Chau

CORE AREA: Interdisciplinary Connect

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

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. 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 lived experience of Asian Americans through visual culture across time and generations? Rethinking Asian American art and contemporary American culture, our discussion focuses on the tensions among history, memory, and performance.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will be introduced to various Asian American artists and develop understanding 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 examine 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 analyze primary sources, both textual and visual in their historical contexts

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Selected PDF articles on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

PROJECT: 30%

MIDTERM: 25%

FINAL: 30%

CLASS PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION: 15%