Introduction to Asian-American Studies  
Ethnic Studies 252 (22784)  
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Nadia K. Raza

Instructor: Nadia K. Raza  
Office: 203 Alder  
E-mail: nraza@uoregon.edu

Office Hours  
Tues: 3:00-4:00  
Or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the origins, methods, and theoretical underpinnings of Ethnic Studies broadly and Asian American Studies specifically. Drawing from scholarship that guides the field of Asian American Studies, we will utilize an interdisciplinary approach to examine the formation of Asian America through immigration, exclusion, racialization, and resistance. Particular emphasis will be placed on recovering cultural memory and counter narratives wherein individuals and communities define their experience. Our aim is to recuperate the histories, experiences, and ongoing construction of Asian American identities with an emphasis on social struggles, polycultural alliances, and community formation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through this course, you will:

▪ expand your knowledge on Asian American history within the context of American society, politics, and culture;
▪ assess the forces that led to the initial and ongoing construction of Asian America;
▪ locate the pattern of orientalism, racialization, assimilation, and solidarity, and panethnicity;
▪ utilize a comparative analysis to understand the experience of Asian Americans the construction of the “Asian America” in relation to other radicalized groups;
▪ retrieve the revolutionary spirit of Asian-American political mobilizations;
▪ develop tools for critical analysis.

Achieving these objectives will allow us to take the course content to a higher level of discussion and analysis. This requires your participation and enthusiasm to challenge yourself, engage the material, and infuse your ideas with confidence and critical thought.
REQUIRED TEXTS


Course Readings Available on Blackboard

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADED COMPONENTS:

**Attendance and Participation: (10%)**
You are expected to come to class having completed readings and other assignments for the day. Your contribution to class discussions and collaborative work will be an important component of the course. Repeated absences will adversely impact your grade. If you anticipate missing class or are unexpectedly unable to attend a session please contact a classmate to obtain the notes and announcements. If you exceed two absences your grade will be affected. If you miss 3 or more classes you will not be eligible to receive an A in the course. Please speak to me if you have any concerns about your ability to attend class and participate.

**In-Class Exercises: (10%)**
Throughout the quarter you will be completing in-class writing assignments to apply the key themes and major points from the day’s readings and lecture. Quizzes may be given to prompt active reading if necessary. Quizzes and other in-class work cannot be made up.

**Exams: (50%)**
We will have two exams during the quarter. Exams will be comprised of identification questions and short essays. Exams must be completed to pass the class.

**Annotated Bibliographies (30%)**
Throughout the term you will be asked to submit summaries of articles, chapters, and films. An annotated bibliography is a form of academic writing that requires you to abbreviate the thesis, major points, and conclusions introduced in an article, chapter, essay, etc. The task is to identify the principle ideas of a work by capturing the information and arguments introduced.
PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING AND COMMUNITY

Community educator and activist William Ayers once wrote, “When teaching is done well, it resonates in the deepest part of your being, it satisfies your soul.” I find this statement is true for both the “teacher” and participants. Teaching is an endeavor like no other—it requires us to expose our thoughts, take risks, and explore unfamiliar areas. Consequently, in this process we are challenged to see, think, do things in new ways, and as such, dimensions of our thoughts and actions change.

Good teaching and learning experiences don’t just happen. Rather, they reflect individual responsibility and collective courtesy from everyone involved. All students share in the responsibility to create a positive atmosphere for learning by extending respect for one another and for the learning process. While we commonly take for granted the qualities and contributions that create optimal learning experiences it is useful to clearly identify some basic commitments here.

1. Attendance – Simply, come to class, curious, nourished, and ready to learn something new. To pass the course regular attendance and participation is required. A sign-up sheet will circulate each class session. To receive full attendance points you must be on time, ready for class to begin and be present for the entire session.

2. Participation Before Class – Participation is commonly assumed to mean the frequency of comments made in class. However, we participate in many ways. For the purpose of this class, participation includes attentiveness, preparation for activities, involvement in discussions, and classroom decorum.

First, participation involves the preparation that is done before each class. Preparing before class should be taken seriously. You must have your assignments read prior to coming to class. The course schedule indicates the readings and topics covered during each session. You will be expected to enter each class session prepared to discuss the claims and evidence presented in the reading.

3. Participation In-Class – My request is that you maintain a level of presence during class. Participation ranges from your non-verbal behavior to your actions and expressions. I expect that you will take notes on lectures and discussions, and devote your full attention to the
class. During class I ask that you refrain from side conversations, reading, cell phone use, text messaging, etc.

4. Initiative - Nearly all students enrolled at in this course have the ability to succeed, however, not all do. Success in higher education is rarely a matter of intelligence or ability but rather a matter of attitude, effort and initiative. Please make sure this is the right class for you by considering the content, the assignments, policies and schedule. Your success in this course is determined by your choices as well as your ability to make use of the many resources available to you. In all of our endeavors we must first determine what we want, learn to ask for help in achieving what we want, and rely on the support, experience, and wisdom of others.

5. Contributions – Your contributions include your written work and comments during in-class discussions, activities and on Blackboard. All of your contributions, questions, and commentary must adopt a professional “academic” tone; you may certainly disagree with the readings, one another, and me, but you must do so in a manner suitable for public discussion. Remember this is a college course, you may believe anything you wish, but not all the things you believe should be or need be expressed in the classroom; the college classroom is a forum focused on specific intellectual tasks.

Expectations and Policies (at a glance)

- **Attendance** - Given that assignments will draw heavily from lectures, class discussions, films, and group activities—success on this course hinges on regular attendance and thorough reading of all assigned material prior to each class meeting.
- **Reading** - This is a reading intensive course. You are expected come to class with the day’s reading and having read all the assigned materials and prepared to engage in active discussion.
- **Late Work** - I will not accept late work or allow for late examinations unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon. Absence from class does not constitute an acceptable excuse. Please refer to the course schedule for all due dates.
- **Electronic Devices**—Text messaging, emailing, or cell phone use during class is disruptive and disrespectful to your colleagues as well as to me. Thus, texting during class compromises the conditions for all of us to engage in learning. Texting and electronic distractions will result in a dismissal for the day and loss of attendance points. I do not encourage the use of laptops in-class. If you intend to use a laptop in class, please see me to establish some basic agreements.
- **Email Correspondence** – Email is a useful way to ask for clarification and seek assistance. While, I encourage you to be communicative about your needs throughout the term, please note that your email is one of several messages I receive each day. Do not expect an immediate response to your email. Please plan ahead—and avoid submitting a question about an exam or paper the night before it is due.

- **Email Etiquette** – In order to receive a response emails must be cordial and include a greening and salutation as well as include the name of our course in the subject of all email correspondence.

- **Academic Conduct** - Students are to conduct their academic affairs in a forthright and professional manner and adhere to the standards outlined in the University's Student Conduct Code (OAR 571-21-068) available at www.studentlife.uoregon.edu

- **Plagiarism and Academic Honesty** – Simply put, plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an F for the assignment the course. You are expected to cite your sources in the designated citation style of your particular major (APA, MLA, Chicago). If you are unsure how to cite a reference make use of your exceptional internet skills and do the appropriate research.

- **Student Learning Services and Accommodations** - If you are having difficulty and/or are in need of academic support, check in with me as soon as possible.

This course has been designed to include you, the student, as an integral part of the subject. Your insights and perspectives will be incorporated in weekly activities and discussions. This will provide you with an opportunity to apply new concepts, process through new information, and improve your ability to articulate yourself, and collaborate with your peers. Ultimately, I intend for this course to be interesting, dynamic, and memorable.
* This syllabus may change based on the class direction and my discretion.