ES 440 Intergenerational Conflicts in Asian American Literature
CRN 37013/Spring 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-5:20pm, 353 PLC
Instructor: Prof. Mika Tanner
Office Hours: 1:30-3:00, 216 Alder Bldg.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Since the 1989 publication of Amy Tan’s blockbuster novel *The Joy Luck Club*, narratives of conflict between Asian immigrant parents and their American-born children have become so popular that they could be considered a genre unto themselves. This course will examine the themes that are consistently explored in these types of narratives, and how they can offer new perspectives on race and American identity in the twenty-first century. How do these novels and memoirs address questions of assimilation, community, and sexuality, and what do they say about existing economic and political structures of power? How do they depict the ways in which Asian Americans have been positioned as invisible minorities, model minorities, and perpetual aliens?

REQUIRED TEXTS:
*A Thread of Sky*, Deanna Fei  
*The Woman Warrior*, Maxine Hong Kingston  
*Native Speaker*, Chang-Rae Lee  
*No-No Boy*, John Okada  
Other readings available on Blackboard

All students must always bring assigned texts to class.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:
Attendance and participation are essential to this course. Students are expected to arrive at every class having carefully read the assigned material, to be prepared with comments and questions pertaining that day’s reading, and to participate in classroom conversation and activities. If you are confused by what you are reading, or if you have questions about why characters behave in a particular way, write your question down and present it to the class during discussion. Missing class more than twice in the term will result in reduction of your final grade by 1/3 of a letter grade for each absence beyond the two permitted (for example, a B- will become a C+). There is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes for that day from a classmate and/or otherwise catch up on any material you have missed.
READING RESPONSES:
Students are responsible for turning in reading responses for each day’s reading. Each response should be 1-2 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman 12 point font with one-inch margins, and labeled with your name, date, title, and author of the text.

PAPERS:
There will be two 5-6 page essays assigned for this course, the first due on 4/30 and the second due on 6/6. All written work must be typed, stapled, and double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. Fonts should be no larger than 12 points, and no smaller than 10 points. Each paper must include your name, the course, the instructor’s name, and the name of the assignment in the upper left corner. Make sure to number your pages. Also, solid, grammatically correct writing is expected from each of you. Please get in the habit of carefully proofreading your work or having someone look over your prose for errors before turning it in. An inordinate number of mistakes in grammar, spelling, and punctuation will definitely hurt your grade.

I DO NOT accept late or incomplete assignments. Also, no e-mailed assignments will be accepted.

GRADING:
Attendance and Participation (20%)
Reading Responses (20%)
Critical Essay #1 (25%)
Critical Essay #2 (35%)

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
All work submitted in ES 440 must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources—ideas, quotations, paraphrases—must be properly documented. Please consult the Purdue Online Writing Lab at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl for information on documentation.
Plagiarism is unacceptable under any circumstances. Any act of plagiarism will result in an automatic failing grade for the course and will be reported to the University. You can find the Student Conduct Code and the University’s plagiarism policies at http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/.

CLASS COMMUNICATION:
Please get in the habit of checking your UO email account regularly as this will be our primary means of communication outside of class. If you need to schedule an appointment or have a question about some aspect of the class, e-mail me and I will do my best to promptly get back to you.

A note on e-mail courtesy: If you communicate with me via e-mail, please make sure to address me in the body of the e-mail (As first lines of e-mails go, I much prefer “Dear
Prof. Tanner” to “Hey Mika”) and to include your name in the closing. In addition, it is easier for me to respond to you if you write in complete sentences and make it clear what text or issue you are referring to: something like, “What’s up with Brave Orchid?” doesn’t give me a whole lot to work with, nor is it particularly courteous or professional.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:
If any student has a disability that requires special classroom accommodations, please see me immediately to make these arrangements. Also, please bring a notification letter from the Accessible Education Center. For more information, please refer to the following website: [http://ds.uoregon.edu/](http://ds.uoregon.edu/).

CLASSROOM COURTESY:
Please silence all cell phones and messaging devices and put them away; anyone using such a device during class will be marked absent for the day. Likewise, laptops in a literature class are more often a distraction than a tool. Anyone using a laptop in class will also be marked absent for the day. Exceptions will be granted only for those who provide me with relevant documentation from the AEC.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/CLASS CANCELLATION:
If an individual class must be canceled due to weather, illness, or for any other reason, a notice will be posted on Blackboard and sent via e-mail. During periods of inclement weather, please check Blackboard and your e-mail rather than contact department personnel. Due to unsafe travel conditions, departmental staff may be limited and unable to handle the volume of calls from you and others.

INCOMPLETES:
I will not issue incompletes. Please see me as soon as you are aware that you will not be able to fulfill all requirements for this course.
COURSE SCHEDULE
Subject to revision

Week One
4/1 Tues. Introduction


Week Two

4/11 Thurs. Read The Woman Warrior, “At the Western Palace” & “A Song For a Barbarian Reed Pipe”

Week Three
4/16 Tues. Read Sau-Ling C. Wong, “Autobiography as Guided Chinatown Tour?” (Blackboard)

4/18 Thurs. Film: “Conscience and the Constitution”

Week Four
4/23 Tues. Read No-No Boy (Preface-68)

4/25 Thurs. Read No-No Boy (69-171)

Week Five
4/30 Tues. Read No-No Boy (finish book)

5/2 Thurs. Paper #1 Due
Week Six
5/7 Tues. Read Lahiri, “The Third and Final Continent” & “Only Goodness” (Blackboard)

5/9 Thurs. Read Native Speaker (1-81)

Week Seven
5/14 Tues. Read Native Speaker (82-155)

5/16 Thurs. Read Native Speaker (156-249)

Week Eight
5/21 Tues. Read Native Speaker (finish book)

5/23 Thurs. Read A Thread of Sky (1-97)

Week Nine
5/28 Tues. Read A Thread of Sky, (101-204)

5/30 Thurs. Read A Thread of Sky (205-303)

Week Ten
6/4 Tues. Read A Thread of Sky (Finish book)

6/6 Thurs. Final Paper Due