

HISTORY 293: ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Fall 2023

Mondays, 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Main Campus – Chem Bio Building (CBB) 131

Instructor: MaiGer Moua

Email: mamoua@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to examine critically the ways Asian immigration and Asian Americans shaped the economic, social and cultural landscape in the United States in the late 19th and 20th century. We will explore how and why communities and identities were formed and redefined in response and resistance to differential treatment and perceptions of Asian Americans.

By studying historical developments through the lens of Asian Americans, migration and displacement of Asian Americans reveal U.S. exclusionary practices and the consequences of U.S. military involvement abroad. The experiences of Asian Americans were different, yet similar, in how they arrived in the U.S. and positioned within the nation-state. This will be illuminated throughout the course when we focus on the immigration of Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Indians, and Filipinos, and the resettlement of Hmong and Southeast Asian refugees.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to reframe U.S. History through the narratives of Asian Americans. In this course, you will:

- Learn about the diverse, and shared, experiences of Asian Americans in the late 19th and 20th century.
- Gain an in-depth understanding of the factors that impacted migration and displacement of Asian Americans.
- Learn how to critically analyze assigned texts and form an argument about historical developments.

Required Texts:

Textbooks can be purchased at the University Store:

- Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2008).

Free e-book access with a student login for *The Latehomecomer*:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uwsp/detail.action?docID=4714991>

- Mine Okubo, *Citizen 13660* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1983).

Additional required readings for the course are available on Canvas.

Films

Picture Bride. Directed by Kayo Hatta, 1995. 1h 35min.

The Women Outside: Korean Women and the U.S. Military. Directed by J.T. Takagi and Hye Jung Park, 2000. 52 min.

Our Secret Army. Narrated by Mike Wallace. Produced by Barry Lando. *60 Minutes*, CBS, 1975. 16 min.

Enough. Produced by Patti Hassler. *60 Minutes*, CBS, 1994. 14 min.

Course Expectations and Grading

You are expected to attend class punctually, complete assigned readings and written assignments as scheduled, and come to class prepared to contribute to discussions.

Attendance – 25%

First Paper – 10%

Second Paper – 15%

Midterm Exam – 25%

Final Exam – 25%

Grading System

93 points and above	A	72 to 75 points	C
89 to 92 points	A-	69 to 71 points	C-
86 to 88 points	B+	66 to 68 points	D+
82 to 85 points	B	59 to 65 points	D
79 to 81 points	B-	58 points and below	F
76 to 78 points	C+		

Papers: You will be required to complete two papers for this class, which are designed for critical reflection of historical developments covered in the course. The papers are to be no more than 3-pages in length, double spaced with 1-inch margins, and typed. The guidelines and expectations for the first paper will be shared early in the semester and after the mid-term exam for the second paper.

Attendance: You are expected to attend class punctually. Missing three or more class sessions will affect your overall grade.

Makeup and Late Work: You are expected to turn all writing assignments in on the scheduled due date and take your exams as scheduled. Late assignments may be accepted 24 hours after the due date, but your grade will be lowered by a grade. If, due to extenuating circumstances, you must make up an assignment or exam, please contact me as soon as possible before the assignment or exam occurs so we can discuss your situation prior to scheduling a makeup.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to conduct their academic work honestly and the work must be their own. Students are also expected to be respectful to their fellow classmates, instructors, and university staff and faculty. Academic misconduct will be addressed following University procedures. According to the University of Wisconsin System Code in Chapter 14, academic misconduct includes, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, falsifying information, and “intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others.” More information on student conduct is available online at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/stu-academic.aspx>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Introduction to Asian American History/ Pan-Ethnic Community Formation and Resistance

M, 9/11

Reading: Ronald Takaki, *Pau Hana*, pp. 57-91; 145-176.

Week 2 – The Chinese Exclusion Era

M, 9/18

Reading: Erika Lee, *The Making of Asian America*, pp. 59-108.

Week 3 – Early Korean Immigration

M, 9/25 – Film: *Picture Bride*

Reading: Erika Lee, *The Making of Asian America*, pp.137-150.

Week 4 – U.S. Imperialism and Filipino Nationals

M, 10/2

Reading: Erika Lee, *The Making of Asian America*, pp. 174-190.

Week 5 – Japanese Immigration and Exclusion Pre-World War II

M, 10/9 – *Paper I Due*

Reading: Erika Lee, *The Making of Asian America*, pp. 109-136.

Week 6 – World II and Japanese Internment

M, 10/16 – *Midterm Exam Review*

Reading: Mine Okubo, *Citizen 13660*.

Week 7

M, 10/23 – *Midterm Exam*

Week 8 - Korean Women in the U.S.

M, 10/30 – Film: The Women Outside

Reading: Ji-Yeon Yuh, *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown*, pp. 9-41.

Week 9 – The Vietnam War and Secret War in Laos

M, 11/6

Week 10 – The Secret War and its Consequences

M, 11/13 – Film: “Hmong: Our Secret Army”

Readings: Chia Youyee Vang, *Hmong America*, pp. 17-43.

Chia Youyee Vang, “Rethinking Hmong Women’s Wartime Sacrifices,” pp. 56-84.

Week 11 – Displacement and Refugee Resettlement

M, 11/20 – Film: “Enough”

Readings: Chia Youyee Vang, *Hmong America*, pp. 44-96.

Chong A. Moua, “Refugee Memoryscape: The Rhetoric of Hmong Refugee Writing,” pp. 117-128.

Week 12 – “Seeking Refuge”

M, 11/27 – *Paper 2 Due*

Reading: Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latehomecomer*, pp. 1-128.

Week 13 – “The American Years”

M, 12/4

Reading: Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latehomecomer*, pp. 129-274.

Week 14 – Asian American as a Political Category

M, 12/11

Reading: Lisa Lowe, “Immigration, Citizenship, Racialization: Asian American Critique,” pp. 1-36.