

**Asian American History
Hist 293 • Spring 2018
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**

**Lectures: Mondays 1:00 to 1:50 p.m., 303 CCC
All other classwork: Online**

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejhsinghani	Office Hours:	Mon., 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or by appointment
Office:	457 CCC	Office Tel.:	(715) 346-4122
Email:	areejhsi@uwsp.edu		

Course Description

This hybrid survey course provides a critical introduction to the national and transnational histories of Asian Americans in the United States. In exploring the Asian American experience, it examines patterns of migration, labor, and settlement; reception by host communities; responses to legal and de facto discrimination; and Asian Americans' growing prominence in various realms, including culture, politics, and economics. No prior background in history is required.

Topics include waves of Asian immigration to the Americas from the 16th through 21st centuries; U.S. colonialism, neocolonialism, and military intervention in Asia; nativist anti-Asian movements; World War II Japanese American internment; post-1965 population growth; community activism and pan-ethnic politics; the model minority myth; perspectives on gender and sexuality; and responses to the policies and reforms of the Trump administration, including the so-called "Muslim ban" and pending immigration restrictions.

We focus upon peoples with ancestral roots in East Asia (mainly China, Japan, and the Korean peninsula), South Asia (principally India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh), and Southeast Asia (including Filipinos, Hmong, and Vietnamese). The experiences of Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, West Asians, and Middle Easterners also come up at times for comparative purposes. We rely on primary and secondary sources, including documentary film, and turn to Asian American voices whenever possible to tell their own stories.

Goals and Objectives

This course has several aims, including but not limited to the following:

- To explore the motives for, and trajectories by which, migrants from South, Southeast, and East Asia arrived in the Americas, especially the U.S., from the 19th century to the present;
- To examine how Asian Americans were occupationally, culturally, racially, and socially defined by majority cultures, and how they resisted or negotiated those definitions;
- To analyze global historical currents' impact on Asian migration, settlement, and diaspora formation as well as Asian Americans' impact upon political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the U.S.; and

- To offer students practical training in modern historical practices, including how to form and develop arguments that marshal evidence from primary and secondary source material.

Grading

Grading in this course is based on the following:

Lecture Attendance	20%
Ten Short Film Responses	30% (3% each)
Two Papers	50% (25% each)

There are no grade curves in this class. Course grades are determined based on the above criteria and are determined according to the following point system:

92.5 points and above	A	72.5 to 76.4 points	C
89.5 to 92.4 points	A-	69.5 to 72.4 points	C-
86.5 to 89.4 points	B+	66.5 to 69.4 points	D+
82.5 to 86.4 points	B	59.5 to 66.4 points	D
79.5 to 82.4 points	B-	59.4 points and below	F
76.5 to 79.4 points	C+		

Required Texts

Texts for purchase (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Erika Lee. *The Making of Asian America: A History*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015.
- Vivek Bald. *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Kao Kalia Yang. *The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father*. New York: Picador, 2016.

Text for rental (available at the UWSP University Store)

Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds. *Major Problems in Asian American History: Documents and Essays*. 2nd edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2017. **[Hereafter abbreviated "MP."]**

Required Films

Beginning in Week 3, students will screen films on their own devices; most are under an hour long. This syllabus will be updated to reflect any changes in film title. Longer films will be spread out over two weeks. Links to the films will be available on D2L by Week 2. There are no assigned films in Weeks 1, 2, 7, 9, and 15.

Weeks 3 and 4: *Gold Mountain Dreams*. 2003. Public Affairs Television. 90 min.

Week 5: *Roots in the Sand*. Directed by Jayasri Hart. 1998. 56 min.

Week 6: *The Great Pinoy Boxing Era*. Directed by Corky Pasquil and Agrafino Edralin. 1994. 32 min.

Week 8: *Unfinished Business: The Japanese-American Internment Cases*. Directed by Steven Okazaki. 1986. 58 min.

Week 10: *First Person Plural*. Directed by Deann Borshay Liem. 2000. 60 min.

Week 11 and 12: *Hmong Memory at the Crossroads*. Directed by Safoi Babana-Hampton, et. al. 2015. 105 min.

Week 13: *Being Hmong Means Being Free*. Wisconsin Public Television. 2000. 56 min.

Week 14: *The Problem with Apu*. Directed by Michael Melamedoff. 2017. 49 min.

Course Requirements (Lecture Attendance, Short Film Responses, and Papers)

Lecture Attendance:

Regular attendance at and participation in lectures consists of 20% of the course grade. To achieve a lecture attendance grade of 85 (B), students must have zero unexcused absences, arrive on time and remain for the duration of class, sign the attendance sheet each week (no retroactive signatures are permitted), silence and stow all electronic devices (tablets, laptops, phones, etc.) for the duration of lecture, actively listen and/or take handwritten notes, and otherwise be respectful of your instructor and peers. Points are docked for students who pull out phones, talk in a disruptive manner, or doze off in class.

Students who wish to earn a lecture attendance grade above 85 should meet all of the above requirements and do the following: constructively contribute relevant questions and/or commentary as opportunities arise, and/or complete up to two extra-credit opportunities to bolster their lecture attendance grades (see the extra-credit policy below).

To assist you with notetaking, I upload lecture outlines to D2L by 9 p.m. Sundays. I also display lecture outlines at the start of class, though you are responsible for printing out your own copies. As the live lecture component is an important part of this hybrid class, lectures are not recorded or screened online, and students may not make their own audio or visual recordings (see the electronic device policy below).

Should you have a doctor's appointment or other valid reason for missing lecture, I require documentation to excuse the absence (see the excused absence and extension policy below). If you do not have such documentation, your absence shall remain unexcused, but you may increase your lecture attendance grade through extra credit.

One last note. I realize that lectures are near lunchtime. Because of their brevity, however, try to avoid eating in class (having something appropriate to drink is fine). If you must have

a snack, eat it as quietly as possible, clean up after yourself, and bring something that is not overly pungent for those around you. I do not dock points for eating unless it's disruptive.

Short Film Responses:

There are ten required short film responses in this course. Each response of between 200-250 words is worth 3% of your grade; collectively, they are worth 30% of your course grade.

The Guidelines to Short Film Responses will be discussed in Week 2. For this assignment, students are asked to respond briefly to one of three weekly discussion questions related to assigned films. In addition to the films, you may use assigned readings, lecture notes, and other class materials to compose your answers. Discussion questions will be posted on D2L by the start of each week's lecture (e.g., the Week 3 assignment will be posted on Monday, February 5, at 1 p.m.), with responses due by the start of the following week's lecture (thus, the Week 3 assignment is due on Monday, February 12, at 1 p.m.). There are no short film responses assigned the week before spring break and near the paper deadlines.

Papers:

Two papers (each between 1,500 to 1,750 words, or roughly 6 to 7 double-spaced pages) are due in this course. Each is worth 25% of the course grade; together they comprise 50%.

Prompts are distributed and discussed at least two weeks before the deadline. Paper 2 is due during our final exam period (Wednesday, May 16, from 2:45-4:45 p.m.) in lieu of an exam. Papers must provide Chicago Manual of Style citations, which we will go over in class at least two weeks before the Paper 1 deadline.

While papers are not cumulative, the historical knowledge you gain from earlier lectures, films, and readings may be of use in writing Paper 2. This is yet another reason to keep up with lecture attendance and to submit your short film responses on time.

Readings, Films, Excused Absences and Extensions, Extra Credit, and Accommodations

Readings. Since lectures are on Mondays, students should have completed the week's reading by the start of the week, not the end of it – i.e., finish the Week 2 reading by 1 p.m. on Monday, January 29 and the Week 3 reading by 1 p.m. on Monday, February 5. There is no assigned reading in Week 1, and we have shorter assigned readings in Weeks 2 and 3.

Films. You are advised to watch required films after lectures, not before – e.g., watch the Week 3 film during the week of February 5-11 after attending the February 5 lecture. Reading the relevant material and attending lecture will provide you with a clearer sense of each film's context. Remember, short film responses are due by the start of lecture the following Monday.

Excused Absences and Extensions. Should there be significant reasons outside of your control (major personal or family issues, major illness or injury, bereavement) that prevent you from coming to lecture or completing an assignment in a timely manner, please contact me immediately. I require relevant documentation for excused absences and assignment extensions. Oversleeping, forgetting a deadline, vacation plans, or the loss of a pet other than a service

animal are not acceptable reasons to obtain an excused absence or extension. Please be aware that I limit documented excused lecture absences to two per student per semester barring the involvement of the Office of the Dean of Students, which usually only applies in serious cases.

Extra Credit. Extra-credit opportunities bolster students' lecture attendance grades and/or make up for unexcused absences and are limited to two per student per semester. Those with perfect or near-perfect lecture attendance and strong lecture participation may obtain extra credit to achieve lecture attendance grades in excess of 100 points (maxing out at 105 points). Extra-credit opportunities are not applicable to any other missed coursework and must be completed by the end of our last lecture day (May 7).

Accommodations. UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the sixth floor of Albertson Hall (the library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu.

Policy on Electronic Devices and Copyright Notice

You are not permitted to use laptops, tablet computers, smart phones or other cellular phones, MP3 players, smart watches, video and/or audio recorders, cameras, headphones, or any other electronic devices and accessories during our class meetings, whether for personal reasons or as an aid to your note taking. (Such devices may be brought to the classroom but must be stored among your personal items for the duration of the class period.)

As an enrolled student in this class, you may download and/or utilize the instructor's course materials for your own personal academic purposes outside of class time, although doing so does not in any way infringe upon the instructor's copyright protections. You are not permitted to videotape, audiotape, photograph, digitize, upload to another web site, or otherwise reproduce or distribute any images, data, and other course materials – including syllabus, lecture outlines, and handouts – produced by the instructor.

This electronic device and copyright policy will be strictly enforced. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class. Violators may also be subject to Academic Misconduct charges (see below). Exceptions may be made for students with prior written documentation of a disability from UWSP Disability Services and with the instructor's written consent.

Student Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating, collaborating with others or submitting others' work as your own, submitting previously graded work as original work, and other forms of student academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. They are a mark of disrespect to one's peers, instructor, university, and oneself. Students who violate University policy on this matter will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) the possibility of failing this course.

Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>), provides more information on what types of activities are considered "academic misconduct" and what the

disciplinary sanctions are for students who engage in them.

Course Drops and Withdrawals

Students wishing to “clear drop” this course may do so via accesSPoint until the end of the business day on Wednesday, January 31. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, April 6, will receive a “W” on their transcripts. Drops after that deadline are generally not permitted. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/AddDropSchedule.aspx> for information.

Emergency Response

To familiarize yourself with UWSP response scenarios in the case of an emergency, consult the university’s Emergency Procedures at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures>.

Use of Email for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is an official mode of university correspondence; you are therefore responsible for reading your email for university- and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your email address. Please check your email regularly to stay current with course-related communications, some of which may be time-critical.

Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change (though major change is unlikely). Should there be a modification of lecture topic, reading or film assignment, paper deadline, or other item, I will strive to give you adequate notice.

Course Schedule

All times listed below are in Central Standard Time, or CST.

Week 1 (January 22-26) Introduction/General Themes

Monday, January 22

We have a required class meeting today so that we may go over the syllabus, but we have no other assignments due. You are expected to do the following before our January 29 class:

- Pick up *Major Problems in Asian American History: Documents and Essays*, 2nd edition, from Text Rental if you haven't already done so. (Please double-check that you have rented the 2nd edition, which was published in 2017.)
- Purchase the other texts from the UWSP bookstore or elsewhere if you haven't yet done so.
- Familiarize yourself with this syllabus and with the course D2L site. Email me if you have questions about course policies or material. My office hours will commence on Monday, January 29, from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Week 2 (January 29-February 2) Transnational Journeys

Monday, January 29

Lecture 1: Asian Migration to the Americas: A Hemispheric Perspective

Required reading *The Making of Asian American History*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2
MP, Chapter 1, Lee/Shibusawa essay

Written assignments None

Week 3 (February 5-9) The First Illegal Immigrants

Monday, February 5

Lecture 2: 19th-Century Chinese Immigration and Backlash

Required reading *The Making of Asian American History*, Chapters 3-4
MP, Chapter 3, Documents 6 and 7

Required film *Gold Mountain Dreams*, Part I

Written assignment Week 3 film response due by 1 p.m. on February 12

Week 4 (February 12-16)
Japanese and Korean Exclusion

Monday, February 12

Lecture 3: The New “Yellow Peril”: Japanese and Korean Immigrants

- Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 5-6
MP, Chapter 4, Documents 1 and 9
- Required film *Gold Mountain Dreams*, Part II
- Written assignment Week 4 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, February 19

Week 5 (February 19-23)
South Asian Pioneers

Monday, February 19

Lecture 4: Punjabi California and Bengali Harlem: Early South Asian Immigrants

- Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapter 7
Bengali Harlem, Introduction and Chapter 1
- Required film *Roots in the Sand*
- Written assignment Week 5 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, February 26

Week 6 (February 26-March 2)
Aliens and Citizens

Monday, February 26

Lecture 5: Definitions of Whiteness

- Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapter 8
Bengali Harlem, Chapter 2
- Required film *The Great Pinoy Boxing Era*
- Written assignment Week 6 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, March 5

Paper 1 prompt will be distributed and discussed; it is due at the start of lecture on Monday, March 12

Week 7 (March 5-9)
Anti-Miscegenation and Land Laws

Monday, March 5

Lecture 6: The Limits of Assimilation

- Required reading . *The Making of Asian America*, Chapter 9
 Bengali Harlem, Chapter 5
- Required film None
- Written assignment Paper 1 is due at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 12

Week 8 (March 12-16)
Wartime Hysteria

Monday, March 12

Lecture 7: Japanese Americans and the Path to Internment

- Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 10-11
 MP, Chapter 8, Documents 2 and 3
- Required film *Unfinished Business*
- Written assignment Week 8 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, March 19

Week 9 (March 19-23)
Legacies of Internment

Monday, March 19

Lecture 8: The Redress Movement

- Required reading MP, Chapter 8, Documents 4-9
 MP, Chapter 9, Document 1
- Required film None
- Written assignment None

SPRING BREAK (MARCH 26-30)

Week 10 (April 2-6)
The End of Exclusion

Monday, April 2

Lecture 9: The Changing Face of Asian Immigration, 1943-1970s

Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 12-13

Required film *First Person Plural*

Written assignment Week 10 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 9

Week 11 (April 9-13)
Southeast Asian Americans and the Vietnam War

Monday, April 9

Lecture 10: The Creation of Southeast Asian Communities

Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 14-15

Required film *Hmong Memory at the Crossroads*, Part I

Written assignment Week 11 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 16

Week 12 (April 16-20)
Hmong Traditions and Transitions

Monday, April 16

Lecture 11: The Hmong and Vietnamese Diasporas

Required reading *The Song Poet*, Album Notes and Side A

Required film *Hmong Memory at the Crossroads*, Part II

Written assignment Week 12 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 23

Week 13 (April 23-27)
The Next Generations

Monday, April 23

Lecture 12: Honoring the Past, Living the Present

Required reading *The Song Poet*, Side B and Album Notes

Required film *Being Hmong Means Being Free*

Written assignment Week 13 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 30

Week 14 (April 30-May 4)
Model Minorities or Undesirable Aliens?

Monday, April 30

Lecture 13: Asian Americans and Panethnic Activism, 1980s-2000s

Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 16-17

Required film *The Problem with Apu*

Written assignment Week 14 film response due by 1 p.m. on Monday, May 7

Week 15 (May 7-11)
Twenty-First Century Communities

Monday, May 7

Lecture 14: Asian Americans in the Age of Trump

Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Epilogue

Required film None

Written assignment All extra-credit reflection papers must be submitted to their relevant D2L dropboxes in by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 7

Paper 2 is due in the relevant D2L dropbox by the end of the Hist 293 final period – by 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16

