

**Asian American History
Hist 293 • Spring 2019
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**

**Lectures: Mondays 1:00 to 1:50 p.m., 128 CCC
All other classwork: Online**

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejsinghani	Office Hours:	Mon., 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or by appointment
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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 background in history or Asian American Studies is required.

Topics include but are not limited to the following: Asian migration 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-era Japanese American internment; transracial adoptions and interracial marriages; post-1965 population growth; Asian American community activism and pan-ethnic politics; the model minority myth; media portrayals of Asian Americans; 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 are 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	40% (4% each)
Two Papers	40% (20% 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)

Lee, Erika. *The Making of Asian America: A History*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015.

Okada, John. *No-No Boy*. Foreword by Ruth Ozeki. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014.

Moua, Mai Neng. *The Bride Price: A Hmong Wedding Story*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2017.

Text for rental (available at the UWSP University Store)

Kurashige, Lon 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 required films on their own devices; most are roughly an hour long, but longer films will be spread out over two weeks. There are no assigned films in Weeks 1, 2, 8, 12, 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 Slanted Screen*. Directed by Jeff Adachi. 2006. 56 min.

Week 7: *Unfinished Business: The Japanese-American Internment Cases*. Directed by Steven Okazaki. 1986. 58 min.

Week 9: *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*. Directed by Deann Borshay Liem. 2010. 63 min.

Week 10: *The Grace Lee Project*. Directed by Grace Lee Boggs. 2005. 68 min.

Week 11: *Mr. Cao Goes to Washington*. Directed by S. Leo Chiang. 2012. 57 min.

Week 13: *The Split Horn*. Directed by Taggart Seigel. 2001. 59 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, participate in class discussions on assigned readings, and/or complete up to two extra-credit opportunities (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 barring instructor permission (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.

Finally, I realize that lectures are near lunchtime. Having beverages with you is always fine, but if you must eat, please do so as quietly as possible and clean up any debris afterward.

Short Film Responses:

There are ten required short film responses in this course. Each response of between 200-250 words is worth 4% of your grade; collectively, they are worth 40% of your course grade.

Students will be asked to respond briefly to one of three weekly discussion questions related to assigned films. When assigned, film discussion questions will be posted on D2L by the start of each week's lecture with responses due by the start of the following week's lecture.

Papers:

Two papers (each between 1,000 to 1,250 words, or roughly 4 to 5 double-spaced pages) are due in this course. Each is worth 20% of the course grade; together they comprise 40%.

Prompts are distributed and discussed at least two weeks before the deadline. Paper 2 is due during our final exam period in lieu of an exam. Papers must provide Chicago Manual of Style citations, which we will go over in class well 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. Students should complete each week's reading before coming to that week's lecture – i.e., finish the Week 3 reading by 1 p.m. on February 4 and the Week 4 reading by 1 p.m. on February 11. There is no assigned reading in Week 1, and the Week 2 reading is optional.

Films. To gain additional context, you are advised to watch required films after lectures, not before – e.g., watch the Week 3 film after the February 4 lecture but before the short film response deadline on February 11.

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 6).

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" may do so up through the end of the business day on Thursday, January 31. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, April 5, will receive a "W" on their transcripts. Drops after that deadline are generally not permitted. See <https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Documents/Add%20Drop%20Form%20Semester%20II.pdf> 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 Time (Stevens Point's time zone).

Upcoming assignments are delineated in boxes.

Week 1 (January 22-25)

Introduction

There is no in-class meeting this week and no assignments due. Please take care of the following:

- Pick up *Major Problems in Asian American History: Documents and Essays*, 2nd edition, from Text Rental if you haven't already done so. (The 2nd edition 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 and download or print the Lecture 1 Outline. Email me if you have questions about course policies or material. My office hours will commence on Monday, February 4, from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Week 2 (January 28-February 1)

Transnational Journeys

Monday, January 28

Syllabus Review and Lecture 1: Asian Migration to the Americas: A Hemispheric Perspective

Note: This week's reading is optional but may be of use in writing papers and film reflections.

Read before class: *The Making of Asian American History*, Introduction & Chapters 1-2
MP, Chapter 1, Lee/Shibusawa essay

Distributed in class: Syllabus

Week 3 (February 4-8)

The First "Illegal Immigrants"

Monday, February 4

Lecture 2: 19th-Century Chinese Immigration and Backlash

Read before class: *The Making of Asian American History*, Chapters 3-4
MP, Chapter 3, Docs. 2-3 & 5-6

Watch after class: *Gold Mountain Dreams*, Part I

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 3 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, February 11.

**Week 4 (February 11-15)
Japanese and Korean Exclusion**

Monday, February 11

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

Read before class: *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 5-6
MP, Chapter 4, Docs. 1 & 8-9 and Chapter 5, Docs. 2- 4

Watch after class: *Gold Mountain Dreams*, Part II

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 4 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, February 18.

**Week 5 (February 18-22)
Aliens and Nationals**

Monday, February 18

Lecture 4: California Dreaming: Punjabi Mexicans and Pinoys

Required reading *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 7-9
MP, Chapter 4, Docs. 3 & 5-6 and Chapter 5, Docs. 6-7

Watch after class: *Roots in the Sand*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 5 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, February 25.

**Week 6 (February 25-March 1)
Writing Historical Papers**

Monday, February 25

In lieu of lecture, we will go over grading, structure, citation, and formatting for class papers.

Distributed in class: Paper Guidelines and Grading Rubric & CMS Citation Examples
Paper 1 Prompt

Watch after class: *The Slanted Screen*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 6 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

Week 7 (March 4-8)
Anti-Japanese Wartime Hysteria

Monday, March 4

Lecture 5: Japanese Americans and the Path to Internment

Read before class: *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 10-11
MP, Chapter 8, Docs. 2-3 & 5-7 and Chapter 9, Doc. 1

Watch after class: *Unfinished Business*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 7 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, March 11.

Week 8 (March 11-15)
Legacies of Internment

Monday, March 11

Lecture 6: The Redress Movement/Discussion of *No-No Boy*

Read before class: *No-No Boy* (all)
MP, Chapter 14, Docs. 1 & 7

Upcoming assignment:

- Paper 1 is due by 1 p.m. on Monday, March 25 (the Monday after spring break).

**** SPRING BREAK (MARCH 18-22) ****

Week 9 (March 25-29)
The End of Exclusion

Monday, March 25

Lecture 7: The Changing Face of Asian Immigration, 1943-1964

Read before class: *The Making of Asian America*, Chapter 12
MP, Chapter 9, Docs. 4-6 and Chapter 10, Docs. 2 & 6

Watch after class: *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 9 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 1.

Week 10 (April 1-5)
The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act

Monday, April 1

Lecture 8: The Post-1965 Growth of the Asian American Professional Class

Read before class: *The Making of Asian America*, Chapter 13
MP, Chapter 11, Doc. 9 & Wu essay and Chapter 12, Doc. 1

Watch after class: *The Grace Lee Project*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 10 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 8.

Week 11 (April 8-12)
Southeast Asian Americans and the Vietnam War

Monday, April 8

Lecture 9: The Creation of Southeast Asian Communities

Read before class: *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 14-15
MP, Chapter 13, Docs. 1-2 & Leong, et. al. essay

Watch after class: *Mr. Cao Goes to Washington*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 11 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 15.

Week 12 (April 15-19)
Hmong Traditions and Transitions

Monday, April 15

Lecture 10: Hmong American Community Formation/Discussion of *The Bride Price*

Read before class: *The Bride Price*, Prologue and Part I
MP, Chapter 13, Vang essay

Week 13 (April 22-26)
Model Minorities or Undesirable Aliens?

Monday, April 22

Lecture 11: Panethnicity and Its Challenges, 1980s-1990s/Discussion of *The Bride Price*

Read before class: *The Bride Price*, Part II
MP, Chapter 12, Docs. 2 & 8 & Chang essay

Distributed in class: Paper 2 Prompt

Watch after class: *The Split Horn*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 13 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

Week 14 (April 29-May 3)
In the Shadow of 9/11

Monday, April 29

Lecture 12: Cultural and Political Activism in the 2000s/Discussion of *The Bride Price*

Read before class: *The Bride Price*, Part III and Epilogue
MP, Chapter 15, Docs. 1-2, 4-5, & 8 & Singh essay

Required film *The Problem with Apu*

Upcoming assignment:

- Week 14 short film responses are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, May 6.
- Extra-credit reflection papers are due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 6.

Week 15 (May 6-10)
Twenty-First Century Communities

Monday, May 6

Lecture 13: Asian Americans in the Age of Trump

Read before class: *The Making of Asian America*, Chapters 16-17 and Epilogue
Additional optional articles will be posted to D2L by April 29

Upcoming assignment:

- Paper 2 is due by 12:15 p.m. on Monday, May 13 (the end of our final exam period).