History 269 Asian Americans in Historical Perspective
Fall 2012

T-R 12:30-1:45 Sabin Hall G28
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Course Description
This course provides an introductory history of Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Asian Indians, and Southeast Asians in the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. We will focus on the experiences of Asian Americans according to historical immigration trends, focusing on push factors (reasons for emigration), pull factors (reasons for immigrating to the United States and/or U.S. territories), the immigration and settlement experience, family roles, ethnic identity, and the ethnic economy.

Course Objectives
1. To familiarize students with the key events, people, and trends in Asian American History.
2. To expose students to a wide range of primary sources such as speeches, letters, laws, court decisions, journalistic accounts, oral histories, photographs, and film footage.
3. To teach students how to analyze such sources in the context of the key questions of the histories of Asian immigration to and Asian American communities within the United States.
4. To improve student communication both written and oral.

Required Readings (available for purchase at the UWM bookstore)
Lillian Faderman, I Begin My Life All Over: the Hmong and the American Immigrant Experience (Beacon Press, 1998)

Texts also available for two-hour checkout at Course Reserves in the Golda Meier Library

Additional Course Readings posted to the Course D2L
Occasionally we will read additional articles or primary documents pertaining to the topic at hand. These readings will be noted in the course schedule and can be found online at the course D2L site in the appropriate weekly files.

Here is information from UWM about how to gain access to our course webpage through D2L:
1. Open your web browser and go to the UWM home page: http://www.uwm.edu (OR go directly to the D2L login page at http://D2L.uwm.edu and skip to #3 below).
2. From the UWM home page, click on the dropdown menu and select D2L Course
Access.
3. On the Desire2Learn Welcome screen, you will see a location to enter your username and password.
4. Type in your ePanther username (the same that you use for your campus email but without the @uwm.edu) and password (same password used for your campus email) and login.
5. On the MyHome screen find the area called My UW-Milwaukee Courses
   a. Click on [Search] with the textbox empty to see all the Active courses you are enrolled in (students are not able to see course sites until the Instructor has designated them as Active). Alternatively you can type a search string (for instance: psych 101) and click on [Search].
   b. In the search results list double click on the word Semester at the top of the column to organize your courses by semester, displaying the current semester first.
6. If you have difficulty getting into the course web page try closing down your web browser and then opening it again.
7. If using a public computer remember to always logout when you are finished.

If you have problems gaining access to D2L contact the UWM Help Desk at: help@uwm.edu; (414) 229-4040 or (if outside the Milwaukee area) (877) 381-3459

Class Format
This course consists of lecture, some video, and some discussion. You should make every effort to attend each class. Your participation grade will reflect your attendance, quality of discussion questions, and level of informed engagement. If you are absent you must provide documentation in order for it to be excused. Lectures will include opportunities for some discussion. My expectations for student behavior during class are as follows:
1. Arrive on time and stay until class is over.
2. During lecture remain quiet unless I ask questions that prompt discussion. Feel free, however, to raise your hand to ask questions.
3. UWM building rules prohibit eating or drinking in the classrooms.
4. Remain attentive and be considerate of others. Turn off and put away cell phones; refrain from web surfing during class; no headphones.

Graded Components of the Course
- Class Participation  10%
- Two short papers 30%
- Midterm and Final Exams 60%

Exams must be taken on the dates given. Any emergency that causes a missed exam must be documented and brought to my immediate attention in order to take a makeup. In case of emergency that keeps you from finishing coursework, you must be passing the class (up until time of emergency) in order to receive an I (incomplete) as a final grade.

Anyone who needs special assistance should see me during the first week of classes. This includes anyone who must miss class due to activities such as military service, sporting competitions, and/or religious observance.
Please review university policies on final exams, incompletes, complaints/appeals, accommodations for students with disabilities, absences due to religious observance or military service, sexual harassment, and academic misconduct (i.e. cheating and plagiarism) at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Sept 4**
Course Introduction
*Reading Assignment for Thursday: Takaki, Preface*
*Additional reading posted to course D2L: Bill Ong Hing, “What Does it Mean to be Asian American?” in Major Problems in Asian American History (Cengage, 2003). Prepare discussion questions for class on Thursday (must be typed; at least two questions per reading).*

**Sept 6**
What does it mean to be Asian American?
Film: My America, or Honk if You Love Buddha (Pt 1)
*Reading Assignment for Tuesday: Takaki, Introduction*
*Additional reading posted to course D2L: Roger Daniels, “Neglect and Distortion of Asian Americans by American Historians”; Ronald Takaki, “The Centrality of Racism in Asian American History”; Sylvia Yanagisako, “Rethinking the Centrality of Racism in Asian American History” in Major Problems in Asian American History. For discussion on Tuesday, write a brief response to each of these essays summarizing the views of each historian. Where do they seem to agree? Where do they disagree?*

**Week 2**

**Sept 11**
Film: My America, or Honk if You Love Buddha (Pt 2)
Discussion: What is the place of Asians in American History?

**Sept 13**
Overview: 19th and early 20th century Asian immigration
*Reading: Takaki, Ch. 1-2*

**Week 3**

**Sept 18**
Chinese Immigration
Film: From Spikes to Spindles
*Reading: Takaki, first part of Ch. 3 (pp. 79-99)*

**Sept 20**
Anti-Chinese Sentiment
Reading: Takaki, remainder of Ch. 3
Reading Assignment for Tuesday: Read the following primary documents posted on the course D2L: “Hawaiians Petition the Privy Council to Halt Foreign Influence in the Islands, and the Council Replies, 1845”; “A Foreigner Speculates on Hawaiian Land Acquisition, 1849”; in Major Problems in Asian American History. What questions do you have about these readings? Write down your questions and any key thoughts for discussion.

Week 4
Sept 25 Plantation Hawaii
Reading: Takaki, Ch. 4
Sept 27 Japanese Immigration
Reading: Takaki, Ch. 5

Week 5
Oct 2 Filipinos: Conquest and Colonization
Film: Bontoc Eulogy
Oct 4 Filipino Settlement in America
Reading: Takaki, Ch. 9

Week 6
Oct 9 Late 19th and Early 20th-Century Korean and Asian Indian Immigration
Reading: Takaki, Ch 7-8
Oct 11 Exclusion, the Asiatic Barred Zone, and “Paper Sons”
Film: Carved in Silence
Reading: Takaki, “Angel Island” in Ch. 6 (pp. 230-top of 239); Daniels, Ch. 1

Week 7
Oct 16 Midterm Exam
Oct 18 Americanization and the Second Generation
Reading: “Gilded Ghettos” and “Searching for Bridges” in Takaki, Ch. 6 (pp. 239-269)

Week 8
Oct 23 The Watershed of World War II: Allies and “Enemy Aliens”
Reading: Takaki, Ch. 10
Oct 25 Executive Order 9066
Film: Something Strong Within
Reading: Daniels, Ch. 2-4

Week 9
Oct 30 You Win Some, You Lose A Lot: Japanese American Resettlement and Redress
Film: Unfinished Business
Reading: Daniels, Ch. 5-7
Nov 1 Class Discussion on Japanese Internment and the Daniels Assignment
Cold War Adjustments: Allies and “Reds”
Reading: Takaki, pp. 406-418

Week 10
Nov 6  The Vietnam Conflict, Pt. 1
   **Daniels Paper Due**
Nov 8  The Vietnam Conflict, Pt. 2

Week 11
Nov 13  The Plight of the Hmong
Nov 15  Southeast Asian Refugees
   Film: Blue Collar and Buddha (Pt. 1)

Week 12
Nov 20  Film: Blue Collar and Buddha (Pt. 2)
   Class Discussion of film and Fadiman
   Reading: Fadiman, remaining sections
Nov 22  **Thanksgiving Day—No Class**

Week 13
Nov 27  Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Community
   Reading TBA
   **Fadiman Paper Due**
Nov 29  Asians in the New “New” Immigration, Post-1965
   Film: The New Puritans
   Reading: Daniels, pp. 419-448

Week 14
Dec 4  The “Model Minority?”
Dec 6  “All Suspects Now”: Immigrants in Post-9/11 America
   Reading TBA

Week 15
Dec 11  Wrap Up and Review

**Final Exam Sabin Hall G28, 12:30-2:30 Friday, December 14th**