

Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies  
Ethnic Studies Dept., UC Berkeley  
CCN: 25152

Instructor: Harvey Dong, PhD.  
Ofc Hrs. Tu Th 10-11am. Rm 522 Barrows  
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**ASAMST 20A: Introduction to the History of Asian in the United States  
(Fall Semester 2018)**

**Course Description**

This introductory course examines critical aspects of Asian American history. The main course objective is to provide students with a historical framework for basic understanding of the experiences of the major Asian American groups and a foundation for comparative analyses. In so doing, the course will analyze how national and international factors have impacted migration and migration-related policies, influenced race, class and gender relations, became linked with inter-class conflicts between labor and capital; and also connected to intra-class conflicts between workers of different nationalities. Finally, the course will look at the Asian American experience from the viewpoint of agency and resistance—what was done by the Asian population themselves to answer the challenges faced. The theme of agency and resistance will also study various historical entry points of support by other Americans towards Asian Americans.

**Learning Goals**

By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1) Identify major historical events, persons and ideas that have shaped Asian American history. 2) Develop critical writing and thinking skills supported by historical evidence. 3) Communicate and work effectively in group projects and presentations. 4) Apply historical method to analyze and compare the relationships between the past and the contemporary.

**Lectures:** Tu Th: 11am-12:30pm. Room 101 Morgan Hall.

**Discussion Sections:** Sec 101 W 4-5pm, 243 Dw. Sec 102: F 12-1pm, 20 Wh. Sec. 103: W 2-3pm, 130 Wh. Sec 104: M 10-11am, 182 Dw.

GSI:

Mihiri Tillakaratne <[mihirit@berkeley.edu](mailto:mihirit@berkeley.edu)> Sec 101 (W 4-5pm) & 103 (W 2-3pm);

Alex Lee <[ajxlee@berkeley.edu](mailto:ajxlee@berkeley.edu)> Sec 102 (F 12-1pm) & 104 (M 10-11am).

**Course Requirements & Grading**

1. Discussion Section: presentations, quizzes, discussion board entries & participation. See bCourse assignment announcements and due dates. No late assignments. 20%
2. Midterm (identifications and essay, **10/11**). 25%
3. 8-Page Term Paper—comparative oral history. (5% topic, book review & outline due **10/26** in bCourse) (25% finalized eight page paper due **11/30**). Standard MLA footnote and bibliographical format, interview transcript in appendix. No late assignments. Total paper points: 30%.
4. Final Examination (identifications and essays), (12/12/18, Exam Grp 9, Wed., 8-11am) 25%.
5. Field Trip Extra Credit: (pick field trips from [approved list](#)) 4%.

**Required Readings**

Books can be purchased at Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Ave/Shattuck. M-Sat 11am-6pm. Sunday. 12noon-5pm. Web: [www.asiabookcenter.com](http://www.asiabookcenter.com)

*Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans.* Ronald Takaki. Little Brown.

*The Forbidden Book: The Philippine-American War in Political Cartoons.* Abe Ignacio, Enrique de la Cruz, Jorge Emmanuel and Helen Toribio. T'iboli Press.

*A New History of Asian America.* Shelley Sang-Hee Lee. Routledge.

**Selected Booklist for Term Paper** (Student draws one book from list below for comparative term paper. Involves reading one biography, interviewing a person not from same peer group as student and comparing

lives of both individuals through focusing on particular life themes. Student should do outside research to provide context to the report referring to at least 5 outside books. Dictionaries, encyclopedias, wikipedias and internet blogs are not reliable as main sources. You will be graded on how well you analyze and integrate your sources.

A book review and term paper outline proposal is due 10/26 in bCourse. Finished term paper due with footnotes, transcriptions and bibliography are due on 11/30.

Biographical Booklist for Term Paper:

Lee, Mary Paik. *Quiet Odyssey*. Univ. of Washington Press.  
Bui, Thi. *The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*. Abrams Comicarts.  
Bulosan, Carlos. *America is in the Heart*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press.  
Sone, Monica. *Nisei Daughter*. Univ. of Washington Press.  
Lam, Andrew, *Perfume Dreams*. Heyday Press.  
Kalita, S. Mitra, *Suburban Sahibs: Three Immigrant Families and Their Passage From India to America*, Rutgers University Press  
Wong, Jade Snow, *Fifth Chinese Daughter*, Univ. of Washington Press  
Samantha Le, *Little Sister Left Behind*

All books are on reserve in the Ethnic Studies Library, 30 Stephens Hall and available at Eastwind Books.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### WEEK ONE—August 23

#### Introduction of course with themes and guidelines.

Is there any relevance to studying Asian American history? What do we want to get out of this class?

*Strangers From A Different Shore*: Preface

*A New History of Asian America*. Introduction, pp. 1-4.

### WEEK TWO—August 28 & 30

#### Framing Asian American History

What are the predominant perspectives on Asian American history and their limitations? What are some alternative perspectives?

*Strangers From A Different Shore*. Chapter 1.

*A New History of Asian America*. Chapter 1.

*Forbidden Book*. Prologue, pp. 1-5.

### WEEK THREE—September 4 & 6

#### Colonization, Pacific Markets, and Asian Labor Migration to the United States Before the Civil War.

What are the different reasons that explain early Asian migration? What role did individual choice play in migration? What role did coercion have?

*Strangers*: Chapter 2 (Overblown With Hope)

*Forbidden Book*. Introduction: Prelude to Conquest and War. Chapter 1, Manifest Destiny.

*A New History of Asian America*. Chapter 2.

### WEEK FOUR—September 11 & 13

#### The Work of National Expansion in the American West, 1848-1908

Could national expansion been accomplished without Asian labor? What economic need did Asian labor fulfill during this time?

*Strangers*: Chapter 3 (Gam Saan Haak) & 4 (Raising Cane)  
*A New History of Asian America*. Chapter 3.

**WEEK FIVE—September 18 & 20**

**Confronting Immigration Exclusion, 1860s-1920s. Migration from Japan, Korea and India.**

What were the causes for anti-Chinese hostility and exclusion? Why was America divided over the question of Asian exclusion? In the face of adversity, how did each Asian immigrating group resist discrimination, accommodate and survive?

*Strangers*: Chapter 5 (179-212) Ethnic Solidarity.  
*A New History of Asian America*. Chapters 4 & 5.

**WEEK SIX—September 25 & 27**

**Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism in the Early Twentieth Century**

How did imperialism play a role in early Asian migration? What effect did it have on the colonized countries and why did anti-colonial independence movements continue to play a role in the lives of the migrants even after residing in the US for a number of years?

*Strangers*: Chapter 7 (“Struggling Against Colonialism”) & 8 (“The Tide of the Turbans”)  
*Forbidden Book*. Chapters 2 & 3. Government by Consent or Conquest. He’s One of the Big Boy’s Now.  
*A New History of Asian America*. Chapter 6.

**WEEK SEVEN—October 2 & 4.**

**Interethnic Tensions and Alliances in the 1920s and 1930s**

How was the Filipino American experience different from the experience of the other Asian immigrant groups? What historical changes led to the CIO labor unions to open their doors to Asian American workers? What role did Asian Americans play in the labor movement and how did their participation dispel earlier myths and stereotypes?

*Strangers*: Chapter 9. (Dollar A Day, Dime A Dance: The Forgotten Filipinos)  
*Forbidden Book*: Chapters 4-8.

**WEEK EIGHT—October 9 & 11. Midterm Exam on 10/11 (Thursday)**

Review and Midterm.

**WEEK NINE—October 16 & 18**

**Americanization and the Second Generation, 1920-1942**

What were the major sources of the second generation conflict: conservatism within the ethnic community or racism within the broader society? Did Americanization lead to assimilation of the second generation? What were some of the limitations?

*Strangers*: Chapter 5 (212-230) (Ethnic Solidarity: Hyphenated Americans) & Chapter 6 (257-270) (Ethnic Islands: Searching For Bridges: Second-Generation Chinese Americans)  
*Forbidden Book*: Chapter 9.  
*A New History of Asian America*. Chapter 7.

**WEEK TEN—October 23 & 25 (Term paper topics due 10/26 in bCourse)**

**War, Race, and the Meaning of Citizenship, 1941-1988**

How differently or similarly was each Asian American group affected by WW2? What role did geopolitics play in repeal of the exclusion laws? What role did the racial past play in the decision to intern Japanese Americans?

*Strangers*: Chapter 10. (The Watershed of WW2)  
*A New History of Asian America*. Chapter 8.

**WEEK ELEVEN—October 30 & November 1**

**Asian Americans and the Cold War, 1945-1965**

How did the Cold War affect each Asian American group? In what ways were Asian Americans accepted and in what ways were they mistrusted as forever foreigners? How can we explain the quick reversal of Japanese and Chinese status in American society?

*A New History of Asian America.* Chapter 9.

**WEEK TWELVE—November 6 & 8**

**Post 1965 Immigration and Asian America**

In what ways was the 1965 Immigration Act the real repeal of Asian exclusion? How did new Asian immigration dramatically change the makeup of the Asian American community?

*Strangers:* Chapter 11 (406-448) (Strangers At the Gate Again)

*A New History of Asian America.* Chapter 10.

**WEEK THIRTEEN—November 13 & 15**

**Refugees and Their Struggles in Asia and America, 1975-2000**

What international factors led to changes in refugee migration policy? What makes refugee resettlement different from immigration settlement?

*Strangers:* Chapter 11 (448-472) (Strangers At the Gate Again: Pushed by “Necessity”: The Refugees From Southeast Asia)

*A New History of Asian America.* Chapter 11.

**WEEK FOURTEEN—November 20 (Nov 22 Thanksgiving Holiday)**

**Asian American Movement, 1960s-70s.**

What led to the rise of Asian American social activism during the late 1960s and 1970s. What relevance do these movements have for the Asian American community today?

*Strangers:* Chapter 12 (Breaking Silences)

*A New History of Asian America.* Chapter 12.

**WEEK FIFTEEN—November 27 & 29 (Term papers due 11/30)**

How have recent changes in the makeup of the Asian American community re-shaped Asian American culture? What internal tensions (race, class, gender) are expressed and how have they affected the cohesiveness of panethnic solidarity?

*Strangers:* Chapter 13 (One-Tenth of the Nation)

*Forbidden Book:* Epilogue.

*A New History of Asian America.* Chapter 13.

## Assignment Deadlines

Date	Item
8/31/18	Discussion Board Week 1 & 2; Quiz Week 1 & 2
9/7/18	Quiz Week 3
9/14/18	Quiz Week 4; Discussion Board Week 3 & 4
9/21/18	Quiz Week 5
9/28/18	Quiz Week 6; Discussion Board Week 5 & 6
10/5/18	Quiz Week 7
10/11/18	Midterm Part B (in-class)
10/12/18	Midterm Part A (online essay); Discussion Board 7 & 8; Quiz Week 8 (none)
10/19/18	Quiz Week 9
10/26/18	Quiz Week 10; Term Paper Topic Due; Discussion Board Week 9 & 10
11/2/18	Quiz Week 11
11/9/18	Quiz Week 12; Discussion Board Week 11 & 12
11/16/18	Quiz Week 13
11/23/18	Quiz Week 14; Discussion Board Week 13 & 14
11/30/18	Term Paper
12/12/18	Final Exam Part A (online); Final Exam Part B (in class) 8am-11am.

*If you are in need of economic, food, or housing support, you can find help at [basicneeds.berkeley.edu](http://basicneeds.berkeley.edu). You may be eligible for money to buy groceries via [calfresh.berkeley.edu](http://calfresh.berkeley.edu) or our [Food Assistance Program](#). If you are in need of food immediately, please visit our UC Berkeley Food Pantry at [pantry.berkeley.edu](http://pantry.berkeley.edu).*