

## Asian/ Asian American Transnational Diasporas/ Soc 358-01

Instructor: Sudarat Musikawong	Office: Willamette University, Smullin 320
Class Meetings: T/Th 12:50-2:20	Office Hours: T /Th 2:20-5pm
Cross-listing: American Ethnic Studies	E-mail: smusikaw@willamette.edu

This course examines the Asian/Asian American historical and contemporary experience as a transnational and diasporic phenomenon. Asian and Asian American politics and identities are reconfigured by economic globalization and increasing transnational traffic, with the tightening and loosening of national borders and rules of citizenship. Drawing from race theory, critical race theory, political economic critiques, human rights, feminist and third world feminist critiques, queer theory, and popular culture, the transnational and diaspora are means of studying migration/immigration, identities in formation, the operations of so called “ethnic enclaves,” the politics of exile, and the reconfiguration of space under conditions of late capitalism.

Students will write one analysis paper due week eleven on a related topic to their final paper, which will be 15% of their grade. Class participation is 15%. One take home midterm will be given in week nine (30%) and a take home final paper will be collected by week fifteen (40%).

### Required Text:

Aihwa Ong, *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees\*Citizenship\*The New America*, (Berkeley, UC Press, 2003)

Lawrence Chua, *Gold by the Inch* (NY, Grove Press, 1998)

Select readings on Blackboard.

**Disclaimer:** Course material may include disturbing content and screenings that are “R” rated. If you may have difficulty with any of the course content for these reasons, please discuss possible alternatives with the instructor.

### ***Method of Evaluation***

Midterm take home: Thurs, March 13	30 pts
Analysis Paper: Tues, April 1	15 pts
Final Paper: Tues, April 29	40 pts
Participation & Attendance	15 pts
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

### **Grading Criteria for the Course:**

A+ = 100 points

A = 99-94 points

A- = 93-90 points

B+ = 89-88 points

B = 87-84 points

B- = 83-80 points  
C+ = 79-78 points  
C = 77-74 points  
C- = 73-70 points  
D = 69-64 points  
F = 63 and below

**Participation (15%):** Absences will effect your evaluation. After three allowed absences, each additional absence will drop your evaluation by “one grade.” Because this course is designed as both lecture and seminar, you will be evaluated by your contributions to discussion.

**Analysis Paper (15%):** Length: 5 pages, double-spaced  
(approximately 1600 words in 12 point font, 1 inch margins)

If you believe writing to be your weakness, do not hesitate to seek an appointment with a writing tutor at the writing center. Matthews, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

This assignment requires you to respond to the essay questions, analyzing excerpts from the texts that speak to the main ideas of the question and themes of the weeks. These are short essays that require you to think critically about the readings, discussions and/or films you have read/discussed/viewed in class.

Generally these analysis papers are restricted to material on the syllabus and in class, as opposed to research papers that would require you to include outside resources or reaction papers that rely on you to base your claims on opinion. You must support your arguments with the readings from that week. These are an analysis papers that require you to compose a logical, coherent, and well-written essays that attempts to argue and persuade for a particular viewpoint.

**Midterm Exam (30%):** Thurs, March 13 **The midterm will consist of short essay questions passed out one week prior to the due date. The in class exam will test your knowledge of and engagement with the materials in class. There will be no make up exams.**

**Final Take Home (40%):** Tues, April 29 You will choose a topic related to the course and write an 8 page paper. Do not exceed 9 pages. Your topic must be decided and approved by the professor by week 9.

## ***COURSE FORMAT***

This course will be interdisciplinary and includes readings from history, social sciences, ethnic and women's studies, cultural and American studies, film and media, and literature. This is a discussion-oriented class which not only means that there will be lectures, but that as a class your **participation is mandatory** since it comprises 15% of your final grade. Furthermore, I expect your participation in class to be informed by the readings. This means that you must **come to class prepared**; this includes reading all assigned materials before class and coming to class with critical insights to the readings. Discussions will often alternate between large class discussions, and small discussion groups in which each group will present their findings and observations on readings. I encourage you to bring your questions about the readings to lecture.

### ***POLICIES***

**Attendance:** Attendance in this class for all assigned periods is mandatory. **Again, after three allowed absences, each additional absence will drop your evaluation by "one grade."** You are responsible for obtaining all material and information you missed from other class members. Attendance is taken in the beginning, late attendance will be noted. **Two Late attendances are marked as an absence.** The instructor will make reasonable accommodations for students who are observing religious holidays, medical leave, or certain university related events. Students must notify the instructor beforehand if they plan to miss class and supply written proof upon return. In-class assignments and exams may not be made up.

**Turn off your cell phone in class.**

**Late Papers:** Deadlines for these assignments will be announced in class. **Late written assignments will be dropped one grade for each 24 hour period after an assignment is due, including weekends and holidays.**

**Academic Integrity:** Any work that you do is expected to be your own. You must properly cite any quotations, paraphrasing, etc that you use. The misrepresentation of your work is one of the most serious academic offenses you can commit. Anyone caught plagiarizing will fail the course and may be subject to additional university action. You may be assigned a grade of "T" which appears on your permanent transcript. You can get the complete policy on the university webpage at:

**Special Needs:** Those who would benefit from alternative sites and/or dates for assignments and who are registered with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) should notify me as soon as possible. I will gladly work with you to accommodate your needs.

**Grievance Policy:** If you would like to discuss a grade with me, I would be happy to have a respectful conversation with you. However, you must wait 24 hours before discussing any grade with me and make an appointment during office hours.

**Email:** You may expect a response to your email at most after 2 days.

## **SCHEDULE**

*(Dates and pages subject to slight changes, as announced in class if necessary.)*

### **Jan 14- Jan 18/ Week 1: What is transnational and diaspora?**

Christina Szanton Blanc, Linda Basch, Nina Glick Schiller, "From Immigrant to Trans-migrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration," *Anthropological Quarterly*, 68(1): Jan. 1995: 48-63.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Transnationalism, Nation-States, and Culture," *Current Anthropology*, 36(4): Aug-Oct 1995: 683-686.

Mae M. Ngai "Transnationalism and the Transformation of the "Other": Response to the Presidential Address to the American Studies Association, *American Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 1. (Mar., 2005), pp. 59-65.

### **Jan 21- Jan 25/ Week 2: What is transnational and diaspora?**

James Clifford, "Diasporas," *Cultural Anthropology*, 9(3): August 1994: 302-328.

Lisa Lowe, "The International within the National: American Studies and Asian American Critique," *Cultural Critique* 40: Autumn 1998: 29-47.

Erika Lee & Naoko Shibusawa, "What is Transnational Asian American History? Recent Trends and Challenges," *Journal of Asian American Studies*, October 2005: vii-xvii.

### **Jan 28- Feb 1/ Week 3:**

#### **Building communities, reconfiguring geographical space/ politics in the US**

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, (1983). Excerpts only TBA.

Michael Peter Smith, "Can you Imagine? Transnational Migration and the Globalization of Grassroots Politics," *Social Text*, 39: Summer 1994: 15-33.

Saskia Sassen, "Chapter 2 The De Facto Transnationalizing of Immigration Policy," *Globalization and Its Discontents*, (NY: New Press, 1998): 5-30.

### **Feb 4- Feb 8/ Week 4: Building communities, reconfiguring geographical space and politics in the US and Japan**

Saskia Sassen, "Chapter 4 Economic Internationalization: The New Migration in Japan and the United States," *Globalization and Its Discontents*, (NY: New Press, 1998): 55-75.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Chapter 10 The State and the Global City: Notes Toward a Conception of Place-Centered Governance," *Globalization and Its Discontents*, (NY: New Press, 1998): 195-214.

**Feb 11- Feb 15/ Week 5: Citizenship- law and belonging**

Aihwa Ong, "Introduction: Government and Citizenship," *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees\*Citizenship\*The New America*, (Berkeley, UC Press, 2003): 1-21.  
\_\_\_\_. "Chapter 3 Refugee as an Ethical Figure," 69-90.

**Feb 18-Feb 22/ Week 6: Civil Rights, Citizenship, Law, Belonging**

Don Nakanishi, "Surviving Democracy's Mistake: Japanese Americans and the Enduring Legacy of Executive Order 9066"

Congressional Hearing Testimony Excerpts from "Rite of Passage: The Commission Hearings 1981"

Eric Yamamoto, "Critical Race Praxis: Race Theory and Political Lawyering Practice in Post-Civil Rights America," *Michigan Law Review*, 95(4), Feb. 1997: 821-900. [note- most law journals have extensive footnotes— explaining the length, focus primarily on the text]

**Extra Credit (5 points) : Mon, Feb 18, 4-6pm School of Law TBA location**  
**Attend screening & guest lecture "Stand Up for Justice: Ralph Lazo Story" and "From 9066 to 9/11" with Amy Kato (Visual Communications, Asian Pacific media organization) and director John Esaki (Japanese American National Museum). Write a 2 page response discussing aspects of gender and state violence. Be sure to sign in your attendance!**

**Feb 25- Feb 29/ Week 7: Migrations of Traumatic Memories**

Aihwa Ong, "In Pot Time," [Chapter 1 &2], *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees\*Citizenship\*The New America*, (Berkeley, UC Press, 2003): 25-65.

**March 3- March 7/ Week 8:**

**Family, Sexuality, and Transnational Adoption**

Aihwa Ong, "Chapter 4 Refugee Medicine: Attracting and Deflecting the Gaze," *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees\*Citizenship\*The New America*, (Berkeley, UC Press, 2003): 91-121

Eleana Kim, "Wedding Citizenship and Culture: Korean Adoptees and the Global Family of Korea," *Social Text*, 21(1), Spring 2003: 57-77.

Film: Deanne Borshay, *First Person Plural*, (2000).

***Pass out take home midterm essay questions, Due Thurs, March 13.***

**March 10- March 14/ Week 9: Human rights and gender**

**Assignment due: Tues, March 11, write 250 words on your analysis paper and final topic.**

**Take Home Midterm due: Thurs, March 13, Beginning of Class.**

Cleo Kung, "Supporting the Snakeheads: Human Smuggling from China and the 1996 Amendment to the US Statutory Definition of 'Refugee'," *The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 90(4), Summer 2000: 1271-1316. [note- most law journals have extensive footnotes, focus primarily on the text]

Lisa Yoneyama, "Traveling Memories, Contagious Justice: Americanization of Japanese Crimes at the End of the Post-Cold War," *Journal of Asian American Studies* 6.1 (2003): 57-93.

Film: *Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women*

**March 17- March 21/ Week 10: When capital & labor goes transnational**

Evelyn Hu-Dehart, "Globalization & Its Discontents: Exposing the Underside," *Frontiers*, 24( 2&3), 2003: 244-256.

Aihwa Ong, "Chapter 9 Guns, Gangs, and Doughnut Kings," *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees\*Citizenship\*The New America*, (Berkeley, UC Press, 2003): 229-252.

*Sweatshop Slaves: Asian Americans in the Garment Industry*, edited by Kent Wong and Julie Monroe, (UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, 2006), "Thai Community Development Center," "El Monte Slave Shop," and "Julie Su": 31-34, 47-53, 85-91.

Film: *Grass Roots Rising*, Visual Communications, 2005. or *Global Assembly Line*, Lorraine Gray, 1986.

**Extra Credit (5 points) : Tuesday, March 18, 4-6pm Hatfield Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Attend guest lecture Los Angeles based Thai Community Development Center Director Chanchanit Martorell on transnational labor trafficking, masculinity, and the operations of global capital. Write a 2 page response. Be sure to sign in your attendance!**

**Pass out analysis paper guidelines, Due Tues, April 1, Beginning of Class.**

***Spring Break: March 24- March 30***

**March 31- April 4/ Week 11: Popular cultures**

***Analysis Paper due: Tues, April 1, Beginning of class.***

Urmila Seshagiri, "At the Crossroads of Two Empires: Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala* & the Limits of Hybridity," *Journal of Asian American Studies*, June 2003: 177-198.

Susan Koshy, "The Postmodern Subaltern: Globalization Theory and the Subject of Ethnic, Area, and Postcolonial Studies," *Minor Transnationalism* ed. By Francoise Lionnet & Shu-mei Shih, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005): 109-149.

**Film: Mississippi Masala, Mira Nair, 2003.**

**April 7- April 11/ Week 12: Youth cultures**

Sunaina Maira, "Trance-Formations: Orientalism & Cosmopolitanism in Youth Culture," *East Main Street*, edited by Shilpa Dave, LeiLani Nishime, Tasha Oren, (New York: New York University Press, 2005):13-31.

Sharon May, "Art of fact: An Interview with praCh\_\_\_\_" in *Manoa In the Shadow of Angkor*, V 16, N 1, 2004: 73-82.

Mandatory Internet Link: [http://www.mujustic.com/p\\_r\\_a\\_c\\_h](http://www.mujustic.com/p_r_a_c_h)

**April 14-April 18/ Week 13: Transnational/Diasporic imaginaries- tourism**

Lawrence Chua, *Gold by the Inch*, entire novel, a quick read.

Film: Mike Siv, *Refugee* (2001).

***Pass out final paper guidelines, due Tues, April 29, Beginning of Class.***

**April 21- April 25/ Week 14:**

**Reconsidering Transnational Diasporic Asia and Asia America**

Shilpa Davé, Pawan Dhingra, Sunaina Maira, Partha Mazumdar, Lavina Shankar, Jaideep Singh, and Rajini Srikanth, "De-Privileging Positions: Indian Americans, South Asian Americans, and the Politics of Asian American Studies," *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 3(1), 2000: 67-70, 80-95 only.

Muneer Ahmad, "Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day after September 11" (2002), 101-115.

Aihwa Ong, "Chapter 10 Asian Immigrants as the New Westerners? And Afterword: Assemblages of Human Needs," *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees\*Citizenship\*The New America*, (Berkeley, UC Press, 2003): 253-287.

**April 29, Tuesday in Class/ Week 15:** Final Paper due in class only.