

# Introduction to Asian American Studies

Spring 2013  
TR 5:45pm-7:00pm  
Sycamore Hall 200

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**Office Hours:** W 1:00pm-4:00pm

## AAST A101-27178

Welcome to AAST A101: Introduction to Asian American Studies! This course will begin by addressing several important issues in the history of the U.S. Asian diaspora. Afterwards, we will place the racial and ethnic classifications of Asian American within the broader context of U.S. racial politics. We will then apply these frames to readings and critical articles on topics as diverse as city planning, health care, immigration legislation, film, and literature.

The assignments in this course are aimed at developing a critical vocabulary for understanding and articulating key issues in Asian American studies and ethnic studies more generally. The exams will test this knowledge require you to apply what you've learned to specific objects (such as newspaper articles, news clips, film scenes and excerpts from literature). Since this introductory course is necessarily broad, the two assigned essays will encourage you to develop your own arguments about key issues of your own interest. You will supplement the course readings with your own research and develop strategies for inquiry that harness the multidisciplinary approach of Asian American studies scholarship.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Jean Yu-Wen Shen Wu and Thomas Chen, *Asian American Studies Now: A Critical Reader*, ISBN 0813545757.

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, ISBN 0374533407.

Milton Murayama, *All I Asking For Is My Body*, ISBN 9780824811723.

All other readings will be available on Oncourse under 'Resources.' Please bring your book or a printed copy of the readings to class every day.

## **[ COURSE POLICIES ]**

### **PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION:**

You are expected to seriously prepare for and participate in class discussions. Your participation grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your comments in class.

### **CLASS CONDUCT:**

While you are in class I hold you to professional forms of conduct. Text messaging, falling asleep, doing homework for another class, or being otherwise disengaged or disruptive is unprofessional and will lower your participation grade.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

You may have 3 unexcused absences without penalty. After that, 3% will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Tardiness of more than 15 minutes will be counted as an absence. Absences can be excused in the case of:

- **Illness**, provided I am notified within 24 hours of the class missed. For more than 2 consecutive days of absence I require a note from the IU Health Center or other healthcare provider.
- **Major family matters** (such as weddings or funerals). For weddings I require at least 2 weeks notice in advance.
- **Religious observances**, provided I am notified at least 2 weeks in advance.

#### **LATE WORK:**

Even if you cannot make it to class, make every effort to get your work in on time. You or someone you trust can drop off hard copies of your assignments in my mailbox (in Ballantine 901, open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). If you are unable to complete your work on time due to illness or other circumstances, you must contact me in a timely manner if you wish to arrange make-up work or an extension. I reserve the right to refuse late work or an extension if I determine that your reason for missing the deadline is not adequate.

#### **PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

At IUB, plagiarism is considered a violation of academic integrity (see the Code of Student Conduct for more information: <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/index.shtml>.) Plagiarism occurs when you represent someone else's work as your own work in the following ways:

- having someone write your paper for you or turning in someone else's work
- simply copying and pasting published information into your paper
- deliberately using ideas or arguments from other sources without attributing them

In cases of plagiarism, the student will receive a zero for the assignment and his or her participation grade will be reduced by 50%. In class we will discuss ways of integrating the ideas of other writers and documenting the sources of those ideas, but please ask if you ever have any questions about plagiarism.

## **[ ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION ]**

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

All assignments and homework are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned, unless otherwise noted on the course schedule. Reading Quizzes will be completed at home prior to the class for which they are due. You can access the quiz through the 'Tests and Surveys' function on Oncourse and will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. There are 13 quizzes scheduled throughout the semester; the lowest 3 will be dropped in the final grade calculations.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

Attendance and Participation	100 points
Reading Quizzes (10 x 20 points)	200 points
Essays (2 x 150 points)	300 points
Exams (2 x 100 points)	200 points
Final Exam	200 points

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<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 points</b>
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**GRADING:**

The final grade distribution is as follows:

	899-870 points (B+)	799-770 points (C+)	699-600 (D)
1000-930 points (A)	869-830 points (B)	769-730 points (C)	599 and below (F)
929-900 points (A-)	829-800 points (B-)	729-700 points (C-)	

Please keep in the mind that at Indiana University, an “A” indicates exemplary work and means you have mastered the concepts of the assignment. A “B” indicates very good work in which you have not only met all of the assignment requirements, but you have also met them at a level above expectations. A “C” indicates that you have sufficiently completed the assignment. A “D” indicates that you have failed to execute some portion of the assignment properly and need help with the assignment. And an “F” indicates that you either did not understand or did not follow through with the assignment.

**[ RESOURCES ]****WRITING TUTORIAL SERVICES:**

I highly encourage you to seek out additional readers for your writing at Writing Tutorial Services (WTS) in the Wells Library Information Commons. The tutors there can provide you with valuable feedback at any stage of your writing process.

**SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Disability Services and The Adaptive Technologies divisions of the Office of Student Affairs can arrange for assistance, auxiliary aids, or related services if you think a temporary or permanent disability will prevent you from being a full participant in the class. Contact them at <http://www.dsa.indiana.edu> or 855-7578 with any individual concerns. Students with special needs must be registered with Disability Services before classroom accommodations can be provided.

**[ COURSE SCHEDULE ]**

You will be expected to complete all readings prior the class in which they are discussed. Please bring a printed copy of your text for each day. I reserve the right to make changes to assignments

and due dates. I will announce any changes in class and on Oncourse. (RQ = Reading Quiz; AASN = *Asian American Studies Now: A Critical Reader*).

T Jan. 8	Introduction to the semester
R Jan. 10	Sucheng Chan, "Asian American Struggles for Civil Political, Economic, and Social Rights" (AASN)
T Jan. 15	Helen Zia, "Detroit Blues" (AASN); <b>RQ 1</b>
R Jan. 17	Film: Choy and Tajima, <i>Who Killed Vincent Chin?</i>
T Jan. 22	Davianna Pomaika'i McGregor, "Recognizing Native Hawaiians: A Quest for Sovereignty" (AASN); <b>RQ 2</b>
R Jan. 24	Michi Nishiura Weglyn, "The Secret Munson Report" (AASN); <b>RQ 3</b>
T Jan. 29	Milton Murayama, <i>All I Asking For is My Body</i> , pp. 1-26
R Jan. 31	Murayama, <i>All I Asking For is My Body</i> , pp. 27-64; <b>RQ 4</b>
T Feb. 5	Murayama, <i>All I Asking For is My Body</i> , pp. 65-103
R Feb. 7	<b>Exam 1</b>
T Feb. 12	Angelo N. Ancheta, "Neither Black nor White" (AASN); <b>RQ 5</b>
R Feb. 14	Howard Winant, "Racism: From Domination to Hegemony" (AASN); <b>RQ 6</b>
T Feb. 19	Robert G. Lee, "The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority Myth" (AASN); <b>RQ 7</b>
R Feb. 21	David L. Eng and Shinhee Han, "A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia" (AASN)
T Feb. 26	Maxine Hong Kingston, "No Name Woman" (Oncourse); <b>RQ 8</b>
R Feb. 28	Chang-rae Lee, "The Faintest Echo of Our Language" (Oncourse); <b>Essay #1 draft due</b>
T Mar. 5	Individual Conferences
R Mar. 7	Individual Conferences
F Mar. 8	<b>Essay #1 due</b> (post to Oncourse by 5pm)
T Mar. 12	<i>Spring Break – class does not meet</i>
R Mar. 14	<i>Spring Break – class does not meet</i>
T Mar. 19	Nayan Shah, "Public Health and the Mapping of Chinatown" (AASN); <b>RQ 9</b>
R Mar. 21	<b>Exam 2</b>
T Mar. 26	Anne Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> , Ch. 1-5; <b>RQ 10</b>
R Mar. 28	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> , Ch. 6-9

T Apr. 2	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> , Ch. 10-15; <b>RQ 11</b>
R Apr. 4	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> , Ch. 16-19
T Apr. 9	Monica Chiu, "Medical, Racist, and Colonial Constructions" (AASN); <b>RQ 12</b>
R Apr. 11	Andrew Leong, "The Struggle Over Parcel C" (AASN); <b>Essay #2 draft due</b>
T Apr. 16	Individual Conferences
R Apr. 18	Individual Conferences
T Apr. 23	Vijay Prashad, "Crafting Solidarities" (AASN); <b>RQ 13</b>
R Apr. 25	Final Exam Review, Course Evaluations
F Apr. 26	<b>Essay #2 due</b> (post to Oncourse by 5pm)
T Apr. 30	<b>Final Exam</b> (7:15-9:15pm)