

Instructor: Jungah Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English (N-751N)
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 10:00 AM -11:00 AM
Email: jukim@bmcc.cuny.edu

Fall 2014
ENG 339 - Section 001
(Cross-listed with Center for Ethnic Studies ASN 339)

ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Tuesday 11:00 AM-12:40 PM Fiterman 806
Thursday 12:00 PM-12:50 PM Fiterman 808

Course Description: This course will study and analyze selected fiction, poetry, drama, short stories, memoirs, documentary films, and critical essays of Asian American writers, filmmakers, and theorists in order to examine the development of Asian American as a literary field. The course will also introduce us to the expanding body of “Asian American Studies” as well as “Asian American Histories.” In this course, we will examine the ways in which Asian American writers represent, transcend, negotiate, trouble, and problematize the Asian legacy to redefine their own distinctive social and cultural worlds. By reading a diverse selection of Asian American literary texts, we will focus primarily on the lives and identities of their characters and how they have been radically altered through the experience of “Asian America.” This course will also approach the study of literature in ways that intersect with other fields such as critical race theory and diaspora, feminist, indigenous, and transnational studies by turning to topics such as transnational feminism, cosmopolitanism, and the dilemma of identity and race in our contemporary world.

Prerequisites: ENG 101 & 201

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course can expect the following learning outcomes:

1. Be able to bring contemporary Asian American literature into dialogue by contemplating conscious debates between authors. **Assessment:** graded out-of-class essays, written responses, in-class discussion and research project.
2. Be able to identify a distinctive language regarding the themes and terms of analysis used in Asian American Studies. **Assessment:** graded out-of-class essays, written responses, in-class discussion and research project.
3. Be able to articulate representations or repressions of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and class in Asian American contexts. **Assessment:** graded out-of-class essays, written responses, in-class discussion and research project.
4. Be able to extend the Asian American Histories to a contemporary wave of transnational migration. **Assessment:** graded out-of-class essays, written responses, in-class discussion and research project.

General Education Outcomes: Below are the college's general education goals that students who successfully complete this course can expect to have achieved:

1. **Communication Skills:** Students will write, read, listen, and speak critically and effectively. **Assessment:** graded out-of-class essays, written responses, in-class discussion and research project.
2. **Values:** Students will make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness, and social responsibility. **Assessment:** graded out-of-class essays, written responses, in-class discussion and research project.

Participation and Attendance: Students receive letter grade, A through F, based on their writing and course work and their performance on the departmental final examination. Course work counts for 80% of the grade, and the class participation counts for 20% of the grade. The work of this course is intensive, and it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind. Students must come to class prepared to participate. Thus, the reading and assignments must be done on time before each class session. Students unable to participate in class discussions because they haven't done the reading will find their class participation grade will suffer. Students are responsible for work covered on days missed due to absence. It is the students' responsibility to take notes in class no matter who is speaking and to make sure that what is said is clear. If you do not understand our readings or discussion, you must ask questions.

Quizzes: In order to ensure that you are on top of that day's material, I will be giving short quizzes at least once a week at the beginning of class. If you are late or absent, you will not be offered a make-up quiz.

Papers: By the conclusion of English 339, students will have completed two formal, thesis-driven essays of **six to eight typewritten pages (double space/12pt)**. Essays due are to be handed in at the beginning of that class session. **Essays handed in after this point will not be accepted. Papers handed in late will not be graded.**

Evaluation: Weekly Quizzes:	10%
Class Participation:	20%
Mid Term Paper:	30%
Final Term Paper:	40% (10% Presentation + 30% Final Paper)

Required Course Texts: All required books are available for purchase at the Borough of Manhattan Community College Bookstore as well as Barnes and Noble Tribeca. Other required readings are made available online via the BMCC library E-Reserves. Electronic reserves are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- 1) Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior (Vintage International, New York)
- 2) Chang-Rae Lee, A Gesture Life (Riverhead Books, New York)
- 3) Bharati Mukherjee, Jasmine (Grove Press, New York)
- 4) Julie Otsuka, When the Emperor was Divine (Anchor Books, New York)

Absence and Lateness Policy: The allowed absences are designed for you to take advantage of in emergency situations like funerals and hospital visits and major scheduling conflicts. Many students think they can miss the maximum hours, then miss more if they have a good reason. Regardless of the reason, **AN ABSENCE IS AN ABSENCE**; I never need a note. **If you are absent one session, you are losing 2 points. If you are more than 10 minutes late for one session, you are losing 1 point.** Accumulated points will be applied to student's final grade. If you miss class, you may contact me via email or ask another student what you have missed.

College Attendance Policy: At BMCC, the maximum number of absence is limited to 4 hours of absence (not 4 days) for a 3-hour course. In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade. (Students more than 10 minutes late to a scheduled class session will be marked absent for the session.)

Classroom Conduct: During the session, there is no bathroom break. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. You will be asked to leave and counted absent if your phone rings in class (same rule applies to texting during the session).

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (Room N-320, OSSD telephone: 212-220-8180 Fax: 212-220-1264). BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement: Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

BMCC Learning Assistance Centers:

- 1) *A. Philip Randolph Memorial Library* offers an online tutorial to assist students in researching and writing research papers. *The tutorial is highly recommended* for each student and can be found at <http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/>.
- 2) *Writing Center* (Room S-500W Tel: 212-220-1384) is designed to serve the writing needs of the BMCC community.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

08/28 (Thu): Introduction

Week 2: Historical Formations of Asian America

09/02 (Tue): [E-Reserve] Lisa Lowe, Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics. “Immigration, Citizenship, Racialization: Asian American Critique” and “Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity: Asian American Differences”

09/04 (Thu): [E-Reserve] Frank Chin, et al. THE BIG AIIIEEEEE!. “Introduction” and “Come All Ye Asian American Writers”

Week 3: Gender and Cultural Identity I

09/09 (Tue): Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior (pp. 1-109)

09/11 (Thu): Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior (pp. 111-209)

Week 4: Gender and Cultural Identity II

09/16 (Tue): MLA Library Instruction

09/18 (Thu): Julia Kwan, dir. Three Sisters on Moon Lake (22 min., in-class)
[E-Reserve] Sau-Ling Cynthia Wong, Multicultural Autobiography: American Lives. “Autobiography as Guided Chinatown Tour? Maxine Hong Kingston’s The Woman Warrior and The Chinese-American Autobiographical Controversy”

Week 5: NO CLASS

09/23 (Tue): NO CLASS (CLASSES FOLLOW A FRIDAY SCHEDULE)

09/25 (Thu): NO CLASS (NO CLASSES SCHEDULED)

Week 6: Memory and Migration I

09/30 (Tue): Chang-Rae Lee, A Gesture Life (pp. 1-96)

10/02 (Thu): Chang-Rae Lee, A Gesture Life (pp. 97-189)

Week 7: Memory and Migration II

10/07 (Tue): Chang-Rae Lee, A Gesture Life (pp. 189-284)

10/09 (Thu): Chang-Rae Lee, A Gesture Life (pp. 285-356)

Week 8: Memory and Migration III

10/14 (Tue): Dai Sil Kim-Gibson, dir. Silence Broken (57 min., in-class)

10/16 (Thu): [E-Reserve] Kay Schaffer & Sidonie Smith, Human Rights and Narrated Lives: The Ethics of Recognition. “Belated Narrating: ‘Grandmothers’ Telling Stories of Forced Sexual Slavery During World War II”

***MID-TERM PAPER DUE**

Week 9: Postcoloniality and Cosmopolitanism I

10/21 (Tue): Bharati Mukherjee, Jasmine (pp. 1-95)

10/23 (Thu): Bharati Mukherjee, Jasmine (pp. 96-153)

Week 10: Postcoloniality and Cosmopolitanism II

- 10/28 (Tue): Bharati Mukherjee, Jasmine (pp. 154-241)
[E-Reserve] Indepal Grewal, Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms. “Becoming American: The Novel and the Diaspora”
- 10/30 (Thu): Mira Nair, dir. So Far From India (49 min., in-class)

Week 11: Exclusion, Removal, and Detention I

- 11/04 (Tue): Julie Otsuka, When the Emperor was Divine (pp. 1-99)
- 11/06 (Thu): Julie Otsuko, When the Emperor was Divine (pp. 100-144)

Week 12: Exclusion, Removal, and Detention II

- 11/11 (Tue): [E-Reserve] Rajini Srikanth, Constructing the Enemy: Empathy/Antipathy in U.S. Literature and Law. “Hierarchies of Horror, Levels of Abuse”
- 11/13 (Thu): Rea Tajiri, dir. History and Memory: For Akiko and Takashige (32 min., in-class)

Week 13: Orientalizing the Orient

- 11/18 (Tue): David Cronenberg, dir. M. Butterfly (101 min., in-class)
- 11/20 (Thu): Elaine Kim, dir. Slaying the Dragon Reloaded (30 min., in-class)
[E-Reserve] Dorinne Kondo, About Face. “M. Butterfly: Gender, Orientalism, and a Critique of Essentialist Identity”

Week 14: Transnational Narrative

- 11/25 (Tue): Lindsey Jang and Robert C. Winn, dirs. Saigon, U.S.A. (57 min., in-class)
- 11/27 (Thu): **NO CLASS (COLLEGE CLOSED)**

Week 15: Dilemma of Identity and Race

- 12/02 (Tue): [E-Reserve] Anyssa Kim, Ovarian Twists. “Photograph of You,” “Longitude (East),” “Drift,” and “Eye Language, 1984”
[E-Reserve] Eleana Kim, “Korean Adoptee Auto-Ethnography: Refashioning Self, Family and Finding Community”
- 12/04 (Thu): [E-Reserve] Lisa Lowe, Orientations: Mapping Studies in the Asian Diaspora. “Epistemological Shifts: National Ontology and the New Asian Immigrant”

Week 16: Final Presentations

- 12/09 (Tue): Final Presentations
- 12/11 (Thu): Final Presentations
***FINAL PAPER DUE**