

**University of Wisconsin-Whitewater**  
**SOCIOLOGY & RACE-ETHNIC STUDIES 285, Asian Americans**  
**On-Line Course 2007**

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**INTRODUCTION**

This is a course on the peoples of Asian heritage in the United States. As you will quickly discover, there are many diverse Asian peoples, they are a vital part of America's social landscape, and their origins in Asia distinguish them from most other people who came to the U.S. Asian Americans are located at the intersection of three contemporary issues

- (a) race-ethnicity-social identity,
- (b) immigration-assimilation-intercultural relations, and
- (c) national U.S. culture-politics.

Asian American Studies books typically adopt one of two approaches. Some focus on major themes or issues that apply to across the many Asian American groups. Others focus on specific Asian Americans of a single nationality separately. Each approach has its strengths, so we will use a mix the approaches in this course. The result is a bit of repetition of ideas or information about a group. This works out well because you get to see the information in from different points of view, and the more important ideas appear more than once..

Asia is a very big place and although we will review most Asian American groups, time limitations prohibit us from examining each Asian-origin group equally or in great depth. This course adopts sociological orientation that overlaps into cultural anthropology, geography, politics, history, economics, and psychology. Unfortunately, there is no time to examine excellent works on Asian American literature.

The course is divided into four parts:

- 1 Introduction and Asia
- 2 Overview of Asian Americans
- 3 Asian American Groups
- 4 Issues and Theories

Course Objectives

1. Upon completion of the course, students will possess an understanding how U.S. society has been, and continues to be, shaped by the interactions among past and recent immigrant Asian Americans and other groups.
2. During the course, each student will be asked to reflect on his or her own racial-ethnic identity and that of others, and to discuss how their identity was formed and is being reinforced or altered through current social interactions.

3. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to explain how various Asian American communities preserve and express their culture of origin, as well as processes of acculturation by which they incorporate aspects of the broader U.S. culture.
4. Upon completion of the course, students will understand the history of Asian peoples who have come to the United States, including their unique forms of assimilation, significant achievements, experience with discrimination, and attempts at pan-Asian cooperation, as well as their involvement with conflicts and power struggles.
5. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to describe key differences among major Asian cultures and ways in which they persist or are modified by Asian-origin peoples now residing in the United States.
6. Upon completion of the course, students will recognize the great diversity among peoples of Asian descent living in the U.S. despite a shared label of “Asian” and be able explain how Asian Americans experience a “racialized” ethnicity that shares some features in common with and has other features that differ from those of other non-majority peoples, including both immigrants and non-immigrants.

## **BOOKS**

### Textbook Rental

1. *The Contemporary Asian American Experience: Beyond the Model Minority* (2nd edition)  
By Timothy P. Fong Prentice Hall, 2002, 358 pages, (paper) ISBN: 0130918342
2. *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity*. Edited by Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou.  
Routledge, 2004, 346 pages, (paper) ISBN 0415946697

### Bookstore Purchase

*Asian Americans: Contemporary Trends And Issues*, by Pyong Gap Min (Editor), Pine Forge Press, 2005, 376 pages, (paper) ISBN: 1412905567

## **POWERPOINTS AND VIDEOS**

There are powerpoint presentations and short video clips of 5-15 minutes in length for each class module. These are important sources of information. Please view each one carefully. You may notice a partial overlap between video clips and powerpoint presentation content and the information in the assigned readings. The partial overlap is designed to reinforce your learning but there is also new information in the powerpoint presentations and video clips. Quizzes and discussion forum questions will come from the powerpoints and videos as well as assigned readings.

## **GRADING**

### Tests, assignments, and/or Evaluations:

Multi-choice quizzes on readings, videos and lectures	225
Student discussion forums	50
Book Report	50
Comprehensive final examination.	75
	400 points

### Quizzes

There are 13 on-line, open-book, timed multiple choice quizzes on the assigned readings, powerpoint presentations/lecture and videos. After you submit a quiz, you will be able to see your score and any questions you got wrong. The correct answer will not appear but you can use this information to look up correct answers and improve your learning. Each quiz will have roughly 12-25 questions and you will have about 20-30 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will be open for **a period of 5 hours. Let me know if you cannot get to it during that time period.**

### Discussion Forums

You will have 13-15 open discussion forums to participate in by making comments. You are required to write one or more contribution to a minimum of 10 of the 13 forums. In other words, you can skip 3 forums, but must participate in at least 10. Each full contribution is valued at up to 5 points per forum. Full participation includes 3 sentences of reactions and comments to a question posed in the forum, a commentary/question relating personal experience about a reading/lecture/video, and/or comments to other students' contributions to the forum. All contributions should be made in an academically serious and respectful manner. Personal attacks on other students, the use of vulgar profanity and threatening/violent language is prohibited, and it may be reported to university authorities for disciplinary action. You are expected to read the comments of other students and build on them.

### Book Report

On D2L you will see a list of 8 books on Asian Americans, select one and write a 5-6 page (double-spaced) book report and place it in the D2L dropbox. Note: All book reports will be submitted to the *Turn-It-In* plagiarism checker. In the book report you should do the following:

- summarize the main ideas of the author or themes, (about 3 pages)
- draw links between the book and course material, (about 1-2 pages)
- give your reactions and reflections. (about 1 page).

### Final Exam

There are 75 questions on the final. 60 multiple-choice questions come from past quizzes while the remaining 10 will be new. You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the final exam.

### Grades

Final course grade is a percentage of course point earned.

A =	100 - 90 %
B =	89.9 – 80 %
C =	79.9 – 70 %
D =	69.9 – 60 %
F =	59 – 0 %

Attendance Policy:

This on-line class moves quickly. It is therefore essential that you attend on-line and participate each Module of class. Making up work for missed work can be difficult. 100% on-line attendance, i.e., check the class D2L site every 2 Modules. Excused absences only granted in the case of a very serious illness or similar reason. Any missed assignments must be made up within 4 Modules of it being missed.

**University Statement:**

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Academic Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events (for details please refer to the Schedule of Classes; the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Catalog; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Catalog; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures (UWS Chapter 14); and the “Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures” (UWS Chapter 17)

**COURSE CALENDAR**

This course is conducted through D2L. Each module has a mixture of one or more of the following requirements:

- Assigned readings in the three books or on-line in the course D2L
- Power point presentation
- On-Line video selections
- Discussion forum
- On-Line quiz or exam

CODES for assigned readings are as follows:

Fong = *Contemporary Asian American Experience: Beyond the Model Minority* by Timothy P.

Fong

Lee = *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity*. Edited by Jennifer Lee and Min

Zhou.

Min = *Asian Americans: Contemporary Trends And Issues* by Pyong Gap Min

## **COURSE MODULES**

### Module 1

Topic: Introduction and Core Concepts

Power point lectures

Power point: Introduction to the Course

Power point: Getting Started

Power Point: What is Race, What is Ethnicity?

Power point: Discrimination and Multiculturalism

Readings:

Min, "Phenomenal Increase ..." (pages 1-3)

Fong: "Introduction: Changing Asian America" (pages 1-13)

On-line Videos: see D2L

Quiz 1: This does not count but is to give you a sense of quiz format and questions. You can re-take it 6 times. It has 28 questions, some may again appear on Quiz 2 and the final exam.

### Module 2

Topic: Overview of Asia

Power Point Lectures

Power point: Coming From Asia

Power point: Eastern vs. Western World Views

Power point: Western Imperialism and Asia

Readings: Reading on reserve,

selections from The Geography of Thought by Richard Nisbett (2003)

Chapter 4 from Pacific Asia by P.W. Preston (1998), abbreviated

On-line video: see D2L

Quiz 1: Covers Modules 1 & 2 power point lectures, Module 1 readings and Geography of Thought, Module 1 and Module 2 videos

### Module 3

Topic: Asian Independence & Diversity

Power Point Lectures

Power point: Determination

Power point: Asian Ethnic-cultural divisions

Readings:

Chapter 5 from Pacific Asia by P.W. Preston (1998), abbreviated

On-line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 2: Covers Module 3 powerpoints, Module 2 reading Chapter 4 Pacific Asia and Module 3 reading Chapter 5 in Pacific Asia and Module 3 video

Module 4

Topic: Overview and Asian American Early History

Power point lectures

Power point: Immigration and Asian Americans

Power point: Features of Asian Americans

Readings:

Min, Chpt 2, pp. 7-28

Fong, Chpt. 1, pp. 15-35

On-line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 3: On Module 4 powerpoints, video clip & 2 chapters of assigned reading above

Module 5

Topic: Demography & Geography of Asian Americans

Power point lectures

Power point: Demography & Geography of Asian America

Readings:

Min, Chpt. 3, pp. 32-51

Fong, Chpt. 2, pp. 39-50 (only)

Lee, Chpt. 2, "Coming of Age" pp. 33-49

On-line video: see D2L

Quiz 4: Module 5 power Points, 3 chapters & the video clip

Module 6

Topic: Occupation, Income and Model Minority Myth

Power point lectures

Power Point: Model Minority Myth

Power Point: Income and Education

Readings:

Min, Chpt. 4, pp. 54-75

Fong, pp. 50-73, Chpt 3, pp. 77-87, & pp. 117-127

On-line video: see D2L

Quiz 5, Module 6 readings, videos & Powerpointns

### **PART 3: Asian American Groups**

#### Module 7

Topic: Chinese and Japanese Americans:

Power point lectures

Power Point: Chinese Americans

Power Point: Chinatowns

Power Point: Japanese Americans

Power Point: Japanese Internment

Readings

Min, Chpt, 6, pp. 110-140 & Chpt. 7 pp. 148-173

Lee, Chpt 7, "Shifting Ethnic Identity" pp. 113-129

On-line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 6: Module 7 readings, videos & power points

#### Module 8

Topic: Korean and Filipino Americans

Power point lectures

Power Point: Korean Americans

Power Point: Korean Black Relations

Power Point Filipino Americans

Readings:

Min: Chpt. 8 pp. 180-201, & Chpt, 10, 230-256.

Lee: Chpt. 12 "Filipinotown and the DJ Scene" pp. 190-205 &

Chpt. 15 "Made in the USA" pp. 235-249

On-Line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 7: Module 8 readings, videos & powerpoints

#### Module 9

Topic: South and Southeast Asian Americans

Power point lectures

Power Point: South Asian Americans

Power Point: SE Asian Americans

Power Point: Hmong Americans

Readings:

Min, Chpt. 9, pp. 206-225 & Chpt. 11, pp. 262-288.

Lee: Chpt. 8, "Instant Karma" pp. 131-142,

Chpt. 13, "Shortcut to the American Dream" pp. 207-220.

On-line Video: see D2L

Quiz 8: Module 9 readings, videos & power points

## **PART 4: Asian American Issues**

### Module 10

Topic: Asian American Family and Marriage Issues

Power point lectures

Power Point: Family

Power Point: Intermarriage and Adoption

Readings:

Min, pp. 88 (col 2)-92

Fong, Chpt. 7, "More Than Family Values," pp. 221-264

Lee: Chpt. 3 "Intermarriage & Multiracial Identification" pp. 51-62

Chpt. 5 "Nisei Daughter's Courtship & Romance" pp. 83-97

Chpt. 18 "Marriage Dilemmas" pp. 285-297.

On-line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 11, Module 10 readings, videos & powerpoints

## **WEEK 3**

### Module 11

Topic: Asian American Representation in the Mass Media

Power point lectures

Power point: Asian Americans and Mass Media

Readings:

Fong, Chapter 6, pp. 188-217

Lee, Chpt.16 "Performing Race, Negotiating Identity" pp. 251-268.

On-Line Video clips: see D2L

Quiz 10: Module 11 readings, videos & power points

## Module 12

Topic: Anti-Asian Racism

Power point lectures

Power Point: Anti-Asian American Racism ToModule

Power Point: Campaign Donation Scandal and Wen Ho Lee

Readings:

Fong, Chapter 5, Anti Asian Violence, pp. 151-181

On-line video: see D2L

Quiz 11, Module 12 readings, videos & powerpoints

## Module 13

Topic: Asian American Politics

Power point lectures:

Asian American Politics

Readings:

Fong, Chapter 8, "Final Frontier" pp. 269-299

Lee, Chapter 19, "Young Asian American Activists," pp. 299-312

On-line video clips: See D2L

Quiz 12: Module 13 videos, powerpoints and readings

## Module 14

Topic: Theory, Identity and Empowerment

Power point lectures:

Power Point: Assimilation

Power Point: Race Position Theory

Power Point: Asian Panethnicity

Readings:

Min, pp. 92 (col. 2)–99, Chpt 12, "Future Prospects," pp. 292-312.

Fong, Chapter 9, pp. 305-312.

Lee, Chpt. 1, pp. 11-23 only, Chpt. 8, "Transnational Cultural

Practices " pp, 143-157, Chpt. 11 "No Lattes Here" pp. 177-188

On-line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 13, Module 14 videos, readings & powerpoints

Module 15

Topic: Final Exam

No powerpoints or readings, prepare for Final

Final Exam open 10:00 am – 1 pm.

### SUMMARY OF READINGS IN 3 TEXTBOOKS

Module	Min	Fong	Lee
1	pp. 1-3	pp. 1-13	None
2	None	None	None
3	None	None	None
4	pp. 7-28	pp. 15-35	None
5	pp. 32-51	pp. 39-50	pp. 33-49
6	pp. 54-75	pp. 50-73, pp. 77-87, & pp. 117-127	None
7	pp. 110-140 & pp. 148-173	None	pp. 113-129
8	pp. 180-201 & pp. 230-256	None	pp. 190-205 & pp. 235-249
9	pp. 206-225 & pp. 262-288	None	pp. 131-142 & pp. 207-220
10	pp. 88 (col 2)-92	pp. 221-264	pp. 51-62, pp. 83-97, & pp. 285-297
11	None	pp. 188-217	pp. 251-268
12	None	pp. 151-181	None
13	None	pp. 269-299	pp. 299-312
14	pp. 92 (col. 2)-99 & pp. 292-312	pp. 305-312.	pp. 11-23, 143-157 & pp. 177-188
15	None, Review	None, Review	None, Review