

SOCIOLOGY 285, Asian Americans

On-Line Course Fall Semester 2007

Instructor: Larry Neuman

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 be able to recognize the great diversity among peoples of Asian descent living in the U.S. despite a shared label of “Asian.” They will 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact me by e-mail with any questions: neumanl@uww.edu
 Physical Office: White Hall, Room 405 Phone 472-1093, Department office phone 472-1133.

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 5-20 minutes in length for each week. These are important sources of information. Please view each 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

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 %

You can earn points in the following areas

Multi-choice quizzes on readings, videos and lectures	225
Student discussion forums	50
Comprehensive final examination.	75
TOTAL	350 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 24 hours, from noon Sunday to noon Monday.**

Discussion Forums

The course has open discussion forums in which you can participate by making comments. To count, a “post” must include 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 may be reported to university authorities for disciplinary action. Scoring discussion forum participation is a mix of the number of posts you author (personal participation factor) and the number of posts written by other students in the course that you read (paying attention to others factor). If you authored an average of one post for each question posed plus you read at least 70 percent of the posts written by fellow students, you will earn the maximum number of points. With additional posts and percent read, you can earn a few bonus points, and with fewer it reduces the points. If you only author two posts and read only 25 posts by others, you may earn just 3 points. If you author no posts and read less than 25 percent of posts by other students, you earn zero points. This is because you indicated a total lack of participation plus you ignored comments your fellow classmates as well. In the past, a few students who did well on tests ignored the discussion forum and did not earn any points in that area. As a result, they received a lower course grade and were surprised. Remember, that participation in the discussion forum has 50 points that count towards your final course grade.

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.

Attendance Policy:

It is essential that you attend on-line and participate about twice a week. Excused absences only granted in the case of a very serious illness or similar reason. Any missed assignments must be made up within four days of it being missed.

Extra Credit

You can earn a maximum of 20 points for extra credit. Contact me after October 15 if you are interested. You must read a book on Asian American group and write a six page (double-spaced) paper on it. I can supply a list of acceptable books. It is due December 10.

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

Through D2L each week will be a mixture of one or more of the following:

- 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* by Timothy P. Fong

Lee = *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity*. Ed. Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou.

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

Week 1, September 4-9

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 up to 6 times. It has 28 questions, some may again appear on Quiz 2 and the final exam. Quiz opens noon Sunday September 9 Quiz closes noon Monday September 10.

Week 2, September 10-15

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: D2L readings on-line

✧ 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: (see above) covers power point lectures, Week 1 readings and

Geography of Thought, first two weeks of videos

Discussion Forum: Opens September 6, closes September 16, 1 question.

Week 3, September 17-22

Topic: Asian Independence & Diversity

Power Point Lectures

Power point: Determination

Power point: Asian Ethnic-cultural divisions

Readings: On-line in D2L

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

On-line video clips: see D2L

Quiz 2: Covers week 3 powerpoints, week 2 reading Chapter 4 Pacific Asia and Week 3 reading Chapter 5 in Pacific Asia and Week 3 video. Quiz opens Sunday, September 23 at noon, closes Monday September 24 at noon.

Discussion Forum, Opens September 16 closes September 23, 1 question

Week 4, September 24-29

Topic: Overview and Asian American Early History

Power point lectures

Power point: Immigration and Asian Americans

Power point: Feature/s 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 the Week 4 powerpoints, video clip & 2 chapters of assigned reading above. Quiz opens Sunday September 30 at noon, closes Monday October 1 at noon.

Discussion Forum, Opens September 23 closes September 30, 2 questions

Week 5, September 30 to October 6

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: on Week 5 power Points, 3 chapters & the video clip. Quiz opens at noon on Sunday October 7 and closes at noon on Monday October 8.

Discussion Forum, Opens September 30 closes October 7, 3 questions

Week 6, October 7 to 13

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, Covers Week 6 readings, videos & Powerpoints. Opens Sunday October 14 at noon. Closes Monday October 15 at noon.

Discussion Forum, Opens October 7 closes October 14, 2 questions

PART 3: Asian American Groups

Week 7, October 14 to 20

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: Covers Week 7 readings, videos & power points. Opens at noon on Sunday October 21. Closes at noon on Monday October 22.

Discussion Forum, Opens October 14 closes October 21, 2 questions

First Half Discussion Forum Scoring (25 points)

Week 8, October 20 to 27

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: Covers week 8 readings, videos & powerpoints. Opens noon on Sunday October 28. Closes noon Monday October 29.

Discussion Forum. Opens October 21 closes October 28, 2 question

Week 9, October 27 to November 3

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: Covers week 9 readings, videos & power points. Opens noon Sunday November 4. Closes noon Monday November 5.

Discussion Forum, Opens October 28 closes November 4, 2 questions

PART 4: Asian American Issues

Week 10, November 4 to 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 9, Covers week 10 readings, videos & powerpoints. Opens at noon Sunday November 11. Closes at noon Monday November 12.

Discussion Forum, Week 10, Opens November 4. Closes November 11, 2 questions

Week 11, November 11 to 17

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: Covers week 11 readings, videos & power points. Opens noon Sunday November 18. Closes noon Monday November 19.

Discussion Forum Opens November 11. Closes November 18, 2 questions

Week 12, November 18 to 21 Topic: Anti-Asian Racism

Power point lectures

Power Point: Anti-Asian American Racism Today

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, Cover week 12 readings, videos & powerpoints. Opens noon on Sunday November 25 and closes 6 pm Monday November 26 (Note 6 extra hours given Monday because Thanksgiving vacation)

Discussion Forum, Opens November 18 closes November 26 (One Day Later Than Normal Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday), 1 question

Thanksgiving Day Thursday Nov 22. ***THANKSGIVING VACATION***

Week 13, November 26 to December 1

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: Covers week 13 videos, powerpoints and readings. Opens noon Sunday December 2. Closes noon Monday December 3.

Discussion Forum, Opens November 25 closes December 2, 2 questions

Week 14, December 3 to 8

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, Covers week 14 videos, readings & powerpoints. Opens noon Sunday December 9. Closes noon Monday December 10. (LAST QUIZ)

Discussion Forum, Opens December 2 closes December 9, 1 question (LAST ONE)

Last half Discussion Forum Scoring (25 points)

Week 15, December 9 to 18 (Last week of classes and exam period)

Topic: Final Exam

No powerpoints or readings, prepare for Final Exam

Final Exam

SUMMARY OF READINGS IN THE THREE TEXTBOOKS

Week	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