

COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE Cultural Experience of Asian-American Writers DEPT. & NUMBER ETHN 440

1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION INCLUDING PREREQUISITES

Introduction to Asian American writers' experiences as shaped by the treatment of minorities in the U.S. and by institutional racism. This course will analyze writers' works in the context of historical, social and political influences and compare Asian Americans with other ethnic groups and the majority society. Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 800.

2. CLASS SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION INCLUDING PREREQUISITES (125 Characters)

Asian-American Writers as influenced by social-political and historical context; comparison with other ethnic groups and the majority society. Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 800.

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES (Must include objective(s) which involve "critical thinking," Title 5 Plan, p. 20.)

Students will analyze Asian American writers' perspectives as shaped socially, politically and historically by racism within American society. Students will compare the experiences of Asian Americans in American society.

4. RECOMMENDED TEXT MATERIALS Eat A Bowl Of Tea. Lyle Stuart Inc., 1961 Asian-American Literature. Temple University Press, 1982.

No-No Boy. University of Washington Press, 1976.

Fifth Chinese Daughter. Second ed. University of Washington Press, 1990.

5. SUPPLIES NEEDED

None

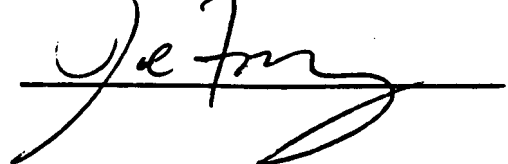
6. SCOPE OF THE COURSE (Attach topical outline)

See Attached

7. EVALUATION (Include examinations, skills demonstrations, writing assignment, and other measures of ability to apply critical analysis. Include standards of evaluation where appropriate. Examples to be on file in Division Office.)

Mid-term exam; five to seven pages of research project; presentation in class and final exam.

PREPARED BY:



TOPICAL OUTLINE

PART I

INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN-AMERICAN WRITERS

ASIAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WRITINGS AND THEIR SOCIAL CONTEXT

By Elaine H. Kim

- 1.) The historical Asian-American Images in the United States media and movies.
- 2.) The positive and the negative images: How they have affected Asian-American society in the United States.
- 3.) How have the influences of the home country and the dominant society affected Asian-American writers?
- 4.) Asian-American writings as expressions of various cultural themes, psychological issues, and interpersonal relations.
- 5.) Different forms of Asian-American writing as shaped by American historical overt racism.
- 6.) Yesterday and today: Asian-American writers.

EAT A BOWL OF TEA

By Louis Chu

- 7.) Chinese-American experience in America. Anti-Chinese Movement. and Anti Chinese Laws.
- 8.) Eat a Bowl of Tea in Chinese-American historical context and overt discrimination such as in the period known as "Bachelor Society."
- 9.) Eat a Bowl of Tea in racial and self-identity.
- 10.) Eat a Bowl of Tea in social and psychological context of the Chinese-American community and in its social organizations such as the Family Associations and Clan affiliation.
- 11.) Consideration of metaphor, autobiographic elements and plot of Eat a Bowl of Tea.
- 12.) Protagonist and antagonist relationships in the theme(s).

PART II

NO-NO BOY

- 13.) Japanese-American experience in the United States: Anti-Japanese movement and anti-Japanese laws.

- 14.) Bombing of Pearl Harbor and the war with Japan.
- 15.) Japanese-American society and the uprooting of Japanese American community and society due to institutional racism in the United States.
- 16.) The interment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and the birth of No-No Boy.
- 17.) The positive and negative images of NO-NO Boy in Japanese-American society and the dominant society after World War II.
- 18.) Self-identity in No-No Boy.
- 19.) No-No Boy in Japanese-Americans' psychological expression after the interment, interpersonal relations among themselves and relations to majority society.
- 20.) Consideration of metaphor, autobiographic elements and plot of No-No Boy.
- 21.) Protagonist and antagonist relationship in the theme(s).

Comparison of the Two Books

- 22.) The importance of the theme/s in the context of the Asian-American experience as shaped by the dominant society.
- 23.) What historical factors influence these two writers? Are those historical factors similar or different?
- 24.) How do the theme/s in the books describe and reflect the relationship of a minority group to the majority society? Are the theme/s similar or different?
- 25.) Do international relations between China, Japan, and the United States play a significant role for these two writers?

PART III

FIFTH CHINESE DAUGHTERS

By Jade Snow Wong

- 26.) Asian-American women's history: past and present.
- 27.) Asian-American women writers: past and present.
- 28.) Chinese-American women's experiences in the United States and in the Chinese-American society.
- 29.) Fifth Chinese Daughter in Chinese-American historical context.

- 30.) Fifth Chinese Daughter in gender, racial, and self-identity.
- 31.) Fifth Chinese Daughter, gender role in the Chinese/Chinese-American family, the Chinese society and the dominant society.
- 32.) Consideration of metaphor, autobiographic elements and plot of Fifth Chinese Daughter.
- 33.) Protagonist and antagonist relationships in the theme/s.

Comparison of the Three Books

- 34.) Compare Asian-American women writers' perspectives to Asian-American male writers' perspective.
- 35.) Compare the gender historical experience in the United States and how the majority society has treated and viewed them differently.
- 36.) The role Asian-American women writers play in Asian-American society and majority society.
- 37.) How does the Asian-American society receive these Asian-American writers? Are Asian-American societies more receptive to Asian-American female writers or to male writers?
- 38.) Asian-American women writers and the feminist movement.

Contemporary Period

- 39.) Asian-American writers and other ethnic writers:
Do the roles fall within the dominant society? Do they play similar or different roles within their own community?
- 40.) Asian-American writers and the white writers:
Are the roles they play similar or different in the mainstream society?
- 41.) Compare the old and the new Asian-American writers:
Have their goals and perspectives changed?