ENG 242 Introduction to Asian American Literature  
CRN 36643/Spring 2013  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-1:20 pm, 117 Fenton  
Instructor: Mika Tanner  
Office: 216 Alder  
Phone: 346-0928  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-3 pm  
E-mail: mtanner@uoregon.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will be reading a range of literary texts—short stories, novels, creative non-fiction and critical essays—written by Asians in the United States and the western diaspora. In class discussions we will explore how these authors address questions of identity, citizenship, sexuality, and belonging, while also building our awareness of the larger socio-historical contexts in which their works are written and received. Some of the core questions of this course include: How do we define the “Asian American” in Asian American literature? What are the various stereotypes of Asians and Asian Americans in U.S. culture, and what are some of the Asian American responses to and (re)constructions of these stereotypes? In addition, students will practice close reading and critical writing, and will also learn how to discuss each of the assigned stories and novels in terms of craft: that is, in terms of the decisions each author makes about character, structure, and language, and how the writer succeeds or fails in these aspects.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
A Thread of Sky, Deanna Fei  
M. Butterfly, David Henry Hwang  
The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston  
Course Reader, available at The Copy Shop, 539 East 13th Ave.  

All students must always bring assigned readings to class.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:  
Attendance and participation are essential to this course. Students are expected to arrive at every class having carefully read the assigned material, to be prepared with comments and questions pertaining that day’s reading, and to participate in classroom conversation and activities. If you are confused by what you are reading, or if you have questions about why characters behave in a particular way, write your question down and present it to the class during discussion. Missing class more than twice in the term will result in reduction of your final grade by 1/3 of a letter grade for each absence beyond the two permitted (for example, a B- will become a C+). There is no distinction between excused
and unexcused absences. If you miss class, **it is your responsibility** to get notes for that day from a classmate and/or otherwise catch up on any material you have missed.

**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.

**MID-TERM EXAM:**
The mid-term examination takes place in class on May 7 and covers the first half of the course. It will be based on assigned texts as well as material covered in class discussions.

**PAPERS:**
There will be two 4-5 page essays assigned for this course, the first due on April 25 and the second due on the last day of class. I will assign paper topics two weeks before each paper is due. All written work must be typed, stapled, and double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. Fonts should be no larger than 12 points, and no smaller than 10 points. Each paper must include your name, the course, the instructor’s name, and the name of the assignment in the upper left corner. Make sure to number your pages. Also, solid, grammatically correct writing is expected from each of you. Please get in the habit of carefully proofreading your work or having someone look over your prose for errors before turning it in. An inordinate number of mistakes in grammar, spelling, and punctuation will definitely hurt your grade.

I **DO NOT** accept late or incomplete assignments. Also, **no e-mailed assignments** will be accepted.

**GRADING:**
Attendance and Participation (20%)
Quizzes (10%)
Mid-term Exam (20%)
Critical Essays (25% each)

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**
All work submitted in Introduction to Asian American Literature must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources—ideas, quotations, paraphrases—must be properly documented. Please consult the Purdue Online Writing Lab at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl) for information on documentation. Plagiarism is unacceptable under any circumstances. Any act of plagiarism will result in an automatic failing grade for the course and will be reported to the University. You can find the Student Conduct Code and the University’s plagiarism policies at [http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/).

**CLASS COMMUNICATION:**
Please get in the habit of checking your UO email account regularly as this will be our primary means of communication outside of class. If you need to schedule an appointment or have a question about some aspect of the class, e-mail me and I will do my best to get back to you in a timely fashion.

A note on e-mail courtesy: If you communicate with me via e-mail, please make sure to address me in the body of the e-mail (As first lines of e-mails go, I much prefer “Dear Prof. Tanner” to “Hey Mika”) and to include your name in the closing. In addition, it is easier for me to respond to you if you write in complete sentences and make it clear what text or issue you are referring to: something like, “What’s up with Brave Orchid?” doesn’t give me a whole lot to work with, nor is it particularly courteous or professional.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:
If any student has a disability that requires special classroom accommodations, please see me immediately to make these arrangements. Also, please bring a notification letter from the Accessible Education Center. For more information, please refer to the following website: http://ds.uoregon.edu/.

CLASSROOM COURTESY:
Please silence all cell phones and messaging devices and put them away; anyone using such a device during class will be marked absent for the day. Likewise, laptops in a literature class are more often a distraction than a tool. Anyone using a laptop in class will also be marked absent for the day. Exceptions will be granted only for those who provide me with relevant documentation from the AEC.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/CLASS CANCELLATION:
If an individual class must be canceled due to weather, illness, or for any other reason, a notice will be posted on Blackboard and sent via e-mail. During periods of inclement weather, please check Blackboard and your e-mail rather than contact department personnel. Due to unsafe travel conditions, departmental staff may be limited and unable to handle the volume of calls from you and others.

INCOMPLETES:
I will not issue incompletes. Please see me as soon as you are aware that you will not be able to fulfill all requirements for this course.
COURSE SCHEDULE
subject to revision

Week One
Tues. April 2 Introduction
Thurs. April 4 Read Kingston, China Men (pgs. 3-73)

Week Two
Tues. April 9 Read Kingston, China Men (pgs. 123-160) & Sucheng Chan, Asian Americans: An Interpretive History, Ch. 3
Thurs. April 11 Read Yamamoto, “Seventeen Syllables” & “Yoneko’s Earthquake”

Week Three
Tues. April 16 Film: “History and Memory: For Akiko and Takashige” (1991 dir. Rea Tajiri)
Thurs. April 18 Read Yamamoto, “The Legend of Miss Sasagawara” & “Las Vegas Charley”

Week Four
Tues. April 23 Read Kingston, The Woman Warrior, “No Name Woman” & “White Tigers”

Week Five
Tues. April 30 Read Kingston, The Woman Warrior, “At the Western Palace” & “A Song For a Barbarian Reed Pipe”
Thurs. May 2 Read Sau-ling C. Wong, “Autobiography as Guided Chinatown Tour?”

Week Six
Tues. May 7 Mid-term
Thurs. May 9 Film: “Slaying the Dragon, Reloaded” (2011, dir. Elaine
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<tr>
<th>Week Seven</th>
<th>Tues.</th>
<th>May 14</th>
<th>Read Hwang, <em>M. Butterfly</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>May 16</td>
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<td>Read Louie, “Pangs of Love,” &amp; Lee, “Yellow”</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>May 23</td>
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<td>Read Fei, <em>A Thread of Sky</em>, (1-97)</td>
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<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Read Fei, <em>A Thread of Sky</em>, (101-204)</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>May 30</td>
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<td>Read Fei, <em>A Thread of Sky</em> (205-303)</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>June 6</td>
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<td><strong>Second Paper Due</strong></td>
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