

(W) 2014 ENG 242 "Introduction to Asian American Literature"

Professor Li PLC 275 Office Hours: M & F 9-10:30 & by Appointments
Tel 6-3940; davidlli@uoregon.edu
140 Allen MWF 14:00-14:50

Description:

Reading Asian American texts as a form of cultural representation, the class will be concerned with the following: 1. Where is Asian America? What are its geographical, social, and epistemological boundaries? 2. What is Asian American? Is it a racial concept, cultural construct, biological determinant, historical condition, individual choice, political collectivity or a varying combination of these possibilities? 3. Who are determining the meanings of Asian America or what it means to be Asian Americans? The ideal class will be an engaged intellectual dialogue between students and the professor through interpretations of the assigned texts. We hope to gain both a deeper appreciation of Asian American literature as a means of imagining community and a deeper understanding of language and discourse in the shaping of individual, ethnic, and national identities.

Required Texts:

Okada, No No Boy
Kingston, The Woman Warrior
Liu, The Accidental Asian
Lahiri, Unaccustomed Earth
Cheng, Southern Cross the Dog

Policy Statement:

Reading: Everyone is expected to finish the readings prior coming to class.

Papers and Due Dates: Two 5-6pp critical essays. Your grade will depend on the quality of your ideas, organization, and prose style. All papers must be typed and double-spaced with sufficient margins, and submitted in hard copies.

Paper 1 is due **M 2-10** and **Paper 2**, due on **F 3-14**. I will offer specific writing instructions and paper topics in class before your paper is due, and I encourage you to stop by during my office hrs and share with me your ideas before your essay submission.

You must turn in your essay (**as a hard copy**) by the beginning of the class hour (**No electronic submission accepted**). **All late papers will receive an "F."** **Exception in cases of serious medical incapacity.**

Semester Grades: The scaled numerical sum of all essays, exams and quizzes will determine your final grade. 2 critical essays (1st, 15%; 2nd, 20%), a mid-term (15%) and a final (20%), & indefinite number of quizzes (30%).

95-100=A+; 85-95=A; 75-84=B; 68-74=C; 60-67=D; Below 60=F

Plagiarism (i.e. the misrepresentation of another person's ideas or words as your own): **automatic flunk of the course.**

Exams: A Mid-term **W 2-5** and a final examination **M 3-17**. **No rescheduling of exams. Make-up exams for serious medical incapacity only. Cheating in exams will result in "F" for the exam portion of the grade.**

Accommodations for Disability: If needed, please provide me with a letter from Disability Services, verifying your disability and stating requested accommodations.

The professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when necessary.

Syllabus

M 1-06	Introduction
W 1-08	Okada (Chapters 1-2)
F 1-10	Okada (Chapters 3-4)
M 1-13	Okada (Chapters 5-7)
W 1-15	Okada (Chapters 8-9)
F 1-17	Okada (Chapters 10-11)
M 1-20	MLK day off
W 1-22	Kingston (“No Name Woman”)
F 1-24	Kingston (“White Tiger”)
M 1-27	Kingston (“Shaman”)
W 1-29	Kingston (“At the Western Palace”)
F 1-31	Kingston (“A Song for . . .”)
M 2-03	Review for Midterm & Leads to 1 st Paper
W 2-05	Midterm Exam
F 2-07	Midterm Review and answer further questions on your paper
M 2-10	1st Paper Due; Liu (“Song for My Father”)
W 2-12	Liu (“Notes of a Native . . .” & “The Accidental . . .”)
F 2-14	Liu (“The Chinatown . . .” & “Fear of a Yellow . . .”)
M 2-17	Liu (“New Jews” and “Blood Vows”)
W 2-19	Lahiri “Unaccustomed Earth”
F 2-21	Lahiri “Hell-Heaven” & “A Choice of . . .”
M 2-24	Lahiri “Only Goodness” & “Nobody’s Business”
W 2-26	Lahiri “Once in a Lifetime” and “Year’s End”
F 2-28	Lahiri “Going Ashore”
M 3-03	Cheng (pp 1-65)
W 3-05	Cheng (pp 66-126)
F 3-07	Cheng (pp 127-216)
M 3-10	Cheng (pp 217-279)
W 3-12	Cheng (pp 283-324)
F 3-14	2nd Paper Due & Term Review
M 3-17	Final 15:15

