

(W) 2016 **ENG 242 "Introduction to Asian American Literature"**

Professor Li PLC 275 Office Hours: MW 10-11:30 & by Appointments  
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146 HED MW 08:30-09:50

**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  
Lee, The Native Speaker  
Yamanaka, Blu's Hanging  
Lahiri, The Lowland  
Liu, Chinaman's Chance

**Policy Statement:**

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

Papers and Due Dates: Two critical essays at the length of 5-6 typed pages each, at 12 font. 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 2-08** and **Paper 2**, due on **F 3-14**. The 1<sup>st</sup> paper should be a comparison of the 2 protagonists from Okada and Lee's novels. You're expected to identify the similarity between Ichiro Yamada and Henry Park, their attitudes and habits among other things, and explain the possible reasons behind their shared character traits by generating a thesis of your own. I will provide directions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> paper after the midterm. 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 2-08** and a final examination **M 3-14**. **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 1-04	<b>Introduction</b>
W 1-06	Okada (Chapters 1-3)
M 1-11	Okada (Chapters 4-7)
W 1-13	Okada (Chapters 8-11)
M 1-18	<b>MLK day off</b>
W 1-20	Lee 1-75.
M 1-25	Lee 76-131.
W 1-27	Lee 132-196.
M 2-01	Lee 197-257.
W 2-03	Lee 268-324. (Preview on 1 <sup>st</sup> paper and midterm exam)
<b>M 2-08</b>	<b>Midterm Exam in class; 1<sup>st</sup> Paper Due.</b>
W 2-10	Yamanaka 3-64.
M 2-15	Yamanaka 65-162.
W 2-17	Yamanaka 163-260.
M 2-22	Lahiri 1-83.
W 2-24	Lahiri 86-176.
M 2-29	Lahiri 179-271.
W 3-02	Lahiri 275-339.
M 3-07	Liu (1-106)
W 3-09	Liu (107-209) (Term Review and tips on final paper)
<b>M 3-14</b>	<b>Final 10:15am; 2<sup>nd</sup> Paper Due</b>