W 2019 ENG 362 "Asian American Writers

Professor David Li

MW 16:00-17:20pm

Esslinger 116

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Office Hours: PLC 275 MW 11:00-12:00 and by appointments

Tel: 6-3940

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, John. No-No Boy
Lahiri, Jhumpa. Unaccustomed Earth
Choi, Susan. Person of Interest
Ma, Ling. Severance

Policies and Requirements:

Reading: Reading is essential for your overall performance and the success of the class. Everyone is expected to finish the assigned readings prior to attending the class. There is an indefinite number of quizzes to ensure careful reading is done. They will test your objective knowledge of the text that includes facts about character, setting (time and place), and plot (the sequence of action). The quizzes also serve as an attendance record. For productive use of class time, there will be no roll call.

Papers: Two 5pp critical essays, for which you are not required to consult outside scholarship (Any external sources used in your paper should be properly acknowledged). A critical essay is one that interprets a literary work with a particular argument. Your grade will depend upon the quality of your ideas, organization, and prose style. All papers must be typed and double-spaced in 12 pt fonts with sufficient margins. You are responsible for retaining a copy of any paper you submit.
1st is paper due 02-04 and 2nd due 03-18 (I'll give detailed writing guidance sufficiently prior to the due dates). In both cases, your essay is due at the beginning of the class hour. No electronic or late submission will be accepted. All late papers will receive an "F" except in cases of serious medical incapacity with appropriate documentation).

Exams: Mid-term and Final:
Mid-term is on 02-04 and Final on 03-18 (I'll give detailed explanation of the format sufficiently prior to the exams). In both cases, no rescheduling will be accommodated but make-up is possible in cases of serious medical incapacity with appropriate documentation).

Semester Grades: The scaled numerical sum of all essays, exams and quizzes will determine your final grade. I reserve the right, though, to take into account absenteeism. 2 critical essays (1st, 10%; 2nd, 20%), a mid-term (20%) and a final (25%). Indefinite number of in-class quizzes; No make-up quizzes for any absentees except for serious illness with appropriate documentation (25%).

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 without acknowledgement): automatic flunk of the course.

Accommodations for Disability: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this class, please provide me with a letter from Disability Services, verifying your disability and stating needed accommodations.

Subject Appropriateness: Reading and writing about literary texts are the essential means of developing critical thinking and feeling skills. However, should any student enrolled in this class feel that they ought not to be exposed to materials that may trigger unwanted responses, please provide me with a written list so that we could determine together from the very beginning if this class is fit for your needs.

Academic Courtesy: There will be no use of electronic devices allowed. I will slow down for your note taking and you are welcome to signal me to pause if you feel the speed of my delivery is unconducive for the task. In case you have to bring your cellphone to class, make sure you silence them.

Syllabus

01-07 Introduction
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01-09 Okada: Chapters 1-4
01-14 Okada: Chapters 5-7
01-16 Okada: Chapters 8-11
01-21 MLK observed
01-23  Ma: Prologue-Chapter 8
01-28  Ma: Chapters 9-18
01-30  Ma: Chapters 19-26

02-04  Mid-term Exam and Frist Paper Due
02-06  Choi: Chapters 1-6

02-11  Review of Mid-term and 1st Paper
02-13  Choi: Chapters 7-12
02-18  Choi: Chapters 13-18
02-20  Choi: Chapters 19-21
02-25  Choi: Chapters 22-26

02-27  Lahiri: “Unaccustomed Earth”
03-04  Lahiri: “Once in a Lifetime”
03-06  Lahiri: “Year’s End”
03-11  Lahiri: “Going Ashore”
03-13  Term Review

03-18  Final and 2nd paper due 14:45