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:

Davis, Peter Ho. *The Ugliest House in the World: Stories*
Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*
Okada, John. *No-No Boy*
Nguyen, Viet. *The Sympathizer*

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 and Due Dates: Two 5pp critical essays. Your grade will depend on the quality of your ideas, organization, and prose style. All papers must be typed and double-spaced in 12 pt font and with sufficient margins. You are responsible for retaining a digital or photocopy of the paper you submit.

Paper 1, is due on F 04-05 and Paper 2, F 08/06. Written instruction on general directions and topics will be posted on CANVASS sufficiently prior to the due dates. I have also set aside time for individual paper conferences before you write and turn your papers in.

For both papers, you need to generate a thesis of your own, and turn in the hard copy of your essay by the beginning of the class hour. All late papers will receive an "F." Exception in cases of serious medical incapacity.

Exams: A Mid-term F 04-05 and a final examination F 15/06. No rescheduling or make-up exams except for serious medical incapacity. Cheating in exams will result in "F" for the exam portion of the grade. The professor reserves the right to keep both the mid-term and final exams for his file after reviewing them with the students.
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%) mid-term (15%) and final (25%). Indefinite number of quizzes (30%).

Grading Criteria: 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.

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:

M 02/04 Introduction
W 04/04 Okada (Chapters 1-2)
F 06/04 Okada (Chapters 3-4)
M 09/04 Okada (Chapters 5-7)
W 11/04 Okada (Chapters 8-9)
F 13/04 Okada (Chapters 10-11)
M 16/04 Davis: “Ugliest” & “Relief” pp. 3-45.
W 18/04 Davis: “Safe” “I Don’t” pp. 129-63.
W 25/04 Davis: “Coventry” & “Buoyancy” pp. 167-204
F 27/04 Individual Paper Conferences (12:00-2:00pm)
M 30/04 Individual Paper Conferences (12:00-2:00pm)
W 02/05 Individual Paper Conferences (12:00-2:00pm)

F 04-05 Mid-Term and 1st Paper Due in Class

M 07-05 Nguyen (Chapters 1-3)
W 09-05 Nguyen (Chapters 4-5)
F 11-05 Nguyen (Chapters 6-7)
M 14-05 Nguyen (Chapters 8-10)
W 16-05 Nguyen (Chapters 11-12)
F 18-05 Nguyen (Chapters 13-15)
M 21/05 Nguyen (Chapters 16-19)
W 23-05 Nguyen (Chapters 20-23)

M 28-05 Memorial Holiday Observed
W 30/05 Lahiri: “Temporary Matter” & “This Blessed House”
F 01/06 Lahiri: “Sexy” & “The 3rd and Final Continent”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>M 04/06</td>
<td>Individual Paper Conferences (12:00-2:00pm)</td>
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<td>W 06/06</td>
<td>Individual Paper Conferences (12:00-2:00pm)</td>
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<td>F 08/06</td>
<td>2nd Paper Due in Class &amp; Term Review</td>
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<td>F 15/06</td>
<td>Final 10:15</td>
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