

ENG 362 "Asian American Women Writers"

Professor David Li
CRN 26999 Winter 2017
Office hrs: MWF 11:00-12:00pm & by appointments

PLC 275 Tel 6-3940
301 DEA MWF 10:00-10:50

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:

Choi, Susan. *Person of Interest*; Keller, Nora Okja. *Comfort Women*
Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior*; Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Unaccustomed Earth*
Li, Yiyun. *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*; Yamanaka, Lois-Ann. *Blu's Hanging*

Policy Statement:

Reading: Everyone enrolled is expected to finish the assigned readings prior to the class meeting.

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 turned in as hard copies. No electronic submission is accepted and you are responsible for retaining a photocopy of the paper you submit.

Paper 1 is due in class **M 01-30** and **Paper 2** is due **F 03-17**. Detailed instruction on the paper topics and tips on how to write a good critical and interpretive paper will be given prior to their deadlines. You must turn in your essay by the beginning of the class hour. 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, 10%; 2nd, 20%), a mid-term (20%), and a final (30%). Indefinite number of quizzes (20%).

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 (**M 01-30**) and a final examination (**F 03-24**). **No rescheduling of exams permitted. Make-up exams for serious medical incapacity only. 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.

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: I have several requests pertaining to this category. Students who feel unable to honor these should enroll in some other courses.

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

Syllabus

- M 01-09 Introduction
 W 01-11 Kingston, *WW* Chapter 1
 F 01-13 Kingston, *WW* Chapter 2 & 3
- M 01-16 **MLK Day Off**
- W 01-18 Kingston, *WW* Chapter 4 & 5
- F 01-20 Li, *A Thousand Years*: 3-67
 M 01-23 Li, *A Thousand Years*: 68-145
 W 01-25 Li, *A Thousand Years*: 146-203
- F 01-27 **Review and Writing Day**
 M 01-30 **First Paper due & Midterm Exam**
- W 02-01 Yamanaka, *Blu's Hanging*: 3-45
 F 02-03 Yamanaka, *Blu's Hanging*: 46-101
 M 02-06 Yamanaka, *Blu's Hanging*: 102-162
 W 02-08 Yamanaka, *Blu's Hanging*: 163-209
 F 02-10 Yamanaka, *Blu's Hanging*: 210-260
 M 02-13 Keller, *Comfort Women*: 1-51
 W 02-15 Keller, *Comfort Women*: 52-113
 F 02-17 Keller, *Comfort Women*: 115-173
 M 02-20 Keller, *Comfort Women*: 175-213
 W 02-22 Lahiri, "Unaccustomed Earth"
 F 02-24 Lahiri, "Hell-Heaven" & "A Choice of ..."
 M 02-27 Lahiri, "Only Goodness" & "Nobody's Business"
 W 03-01 Lahiri "Once in a Lifetime" and "Year's End"
 F 03-03 Lahiri "Going Ashore"
 M 03-06 Choi, *Person of Interest*: 1-65
 W 03-08 Choi, *Person of Interest*: 69-150
 F 03-10 Choi, *Person of Interest*: 151-210
 M 03-13 Choi, *Person of Interest*: 211-288
 W 03-15 Choi, *Person of Interest*: 288-356
- F 03-17 **Term Review and 2nd Paper Due**

Final Exam: 10:15 am F 03-24