

Syllabus

In this seminar we will examine various issues related to the intersection of race and gender in Asian America, starting with the nineteenth century and working our way up to the present. Topics to be covered may include racial and gender discourse, the stereotyping of Asian American women and men in the media, Asian American masculinity, Asian American feminisms and their relation to mainstream American feminism, the debate between feminism and ethnic nationalism, gay and lesbian identity, class and labor issues, domestic violence, and the "cultural defense." The study of Asian Americans in film will form a significant component of this course. The class will require a final group project of 20-40 pages (depending on group size). In addition, there will be brief oral presentations and writing assignments during the course of the semester, and a bibliography project.

Grade: Class participation 30%*, final project 40%, oral presentations 10%, bibliography project 20%

*Attendance at every class is mandatory. I expect students to have completed the readings and be prepared to participate actively in discussion.

**NO extensions are given except in cases of illness or family emergencies

Readings:

Required:

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly*

Recommended: (look through these books to see if you might want to use them for your final project)

Park, Kyeyoung, *Korean American Dream*
Josh Cohen ed, *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*
Shah, Sonia, *Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire*
Kim, Elaine, *Making More Waves*
Srikanth et al., *Contours of the Heart*
David Eng, Q&A: *Queer in Asian America*

Films assigned to be watched outside of class are available from the Film and Media Office

Due dates: Week #6 -- bibliography project, Week #10 -- final projects

Race and Gender in Asian America

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Introduction	Film: <i>Slaying the Dragon</i>
2	Early Images of Asian Men in Chinatown's "Bachelor Society"	Gina Marchetti, <i>Romance and the Yellow Peril</i> , "Introduction," Norris, "The Third Circle," <i>The Wave</i> , 1897 Burke, "The Chink and the Child," 1916 Murray, "The Mandarin's Birthday Gift," <i>Overland Monthly</i> , 1910 Borden, "First Loves: Hers" <i>The Wave</i> , 1899 Irwin, "Old Chinatown" (excerpt), 1908 Film Clips: <i>Broken Blossoms</i> <i>The Cheat</i> <i>The Mask of Fu Manchu</i> <i>Shadows</i>
3	Maxine Hong Kingston v. Frank Chin: The Conflict between Feminism and Ethnic Nationalism	Kingston, <i>The Woman Warrior</i> , esp. ch. 1, pp 45-53, ch. 5 Frank Chin, "The Confessions of a Chinatown Cowboy," & "Afterword"
4	M. Butterfly: The Effeminization of the Asian American Male	Hwang, <i>M. Butterfly</i> Film: <i>M. Butterfly</i>

5		Immigration, Work and Changing Gender roles	<p>Park, <i>The Korean American Dream</i>, ch 4-6</p> <p>Chang, "The Global Trade in Filipina Workers," <i>In Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire</i></p> <p>Film Clip: <i>Sa-I-Gu</i></p>
6		Asian-Americans and Inter marriage (all readings on Library reserve)	<p>Spickard, <i>Mixed Blood</i>, introduction</p> <p>Shinagawa and Pang, "Asian American Panethnicity and Inter marriage," <i>Amerasia</i> 22.2 (1996): 127-152.</p> <p>Shinagawa and Pang, "Intraethnic, Interethnic, and interracial marriages among Asian-Americans in California, 1980" <i>Berkeley Journal of Sociology</i></p> <p>Recommended: Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, "White Trash" Meets the "Little Brown Monkeys": The Taxi Dance Hall as a Site of Interracial and Gender Alliances between White Working Class Women and Filipino Immigrant Men</p>
7		The Color of Our Future? Multiracial Asian Americans	<p>Steven Ropp, "Do Multiracial Subjects Really Challenge Race? Mixed-race Asians in United States and the Caribbean," <i>Amerasia</i> 23.1, 1997.</p> <p>Maria Root, "Multiracial Asians: Models of Ethnic Identity," <i>Amerasia</i> 23.1, 1997.</p> <p>Paul Spickard, "What Must I Be? Asian-Americans and the Question of Multiethnic Identity," <i>Amerasia</i> 23.1, 1997.</p> <p>4 Selections from <i>The Sum of Our Parts</i> -- on library reserve</p> <p>Spickard, Ch 1 Espiritu, Ch 2 King, Ch 13 Weisman, Ch 19</p> <p>Recommended: Eric Liu, "Blood Vows," <i>The Accidental Asian</i></p>
8		Reading by Chang-rae Lee	Read Native Speaker at your own pace
9		Guest lecture by Dr. Urmila Seshagiri	<p>On <i>Mississippi Masala</i></p> <p>Film: <i>Mississippi Masala</i></p> <p>For homework watch <i>Chutney Popcorn</i></p> <p>Read introduction from <i>Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?</i> & Leti Volpp, "(Mis)Identifying Culture: Asian Women and the 'Cultural Defense'"</p>
10		A Double Marginalization? Queer and Asian American	<p>Excerpts from David Eng, ed., <i>Q & A: Queer and Asian America</i>. Intro and your choice.</p> <p>Film Clip (in class): <i>Wedding Banquet</i></p>