

Asian American Politics (POS 4931)
Fall 2007
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Office Hours:

Tuesdays 2-4pm
Thursdays 11:40am-
Thursdays 2pm – 3pm

Purpose and Format of Course:

In the Asian American politics course, we will examine the political behavior, attitudes, and mobilization of Asian Americans in America by examining a variety of topics such as the racial stereotypes which plague them, their electoral behavior, the mobilizations tactics utilized in their communities, their response to violent crimes against members of their group and crime within their communities, Asian American conservatism, their views on affirmative action, and the politics of Asian American women. The format will be a combination of lecture and discussion.

Note:

If you have a disability, please inform me so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The Required Textbooks are much cheaper at www.amazon.com and other internet sites.

Asian American Politics: Law, Participation, and Policy. James Lai and Don Nakanishi.

Koreans in the Hood: Conflict with African Americans. Kwang Chung Kim.

The Reserve Articles:

These readings are on reserve on the www.uflib.ufl.edu web site. To read or print these articles, click on the course reserves link, type in my last name, and click on the article's title. The internet readings can be found at the links listed on the syllabus.

The Recommended Readings:

These articles and books will be useful if you would like additional information on the topics we're discussing or if you need sources for your research papers. They are *recommended* not required readings.

Class Participation:

Class participation includes discussion during class meetings, but mostly will be based on attendance. After three unexcused absences, you will not receive the percentage points for class participation. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance roster during each class session. If you forget to, sign it during the next class. Also, try to get to class on time. If you are late on an almost daily basis, it will be affect your grade because it will be considered as an absence.

The Policy on Cell Phones:

In the past, several of my students have forgotten to turn off their cell phones in class. I am asking you to please turn off your phones before our class begins. If your phone rings more than once during the

semester, you may be asked to leave the class for the day or for the entire semester. Remember, a student who takes his/her work seriously will make sure that his/her phone is off during class meetings.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating on examinations. The penalty for cheating is a grade of 0 on the exam. In addition, the dean's office may chose to administer a harsher punishment such as a temporary suspension from this class or a permanent expulsion from the university.

The Internship and Fellowship Information:

I receive a lot of information about internships, undergraduate scholarships, and law and graduate school fellowships. At the beginning of most of our classes, I will share this information with you because I strongly encourage you to apply for these things. In the past, several of my students have received a variety of internships and fellowships. I can also provide copies of the materials that I bring to class if you need them. It is not a waste of time to apply for these things because you have nothing to lose by applying and you are just as if not more qualified than other applicants regardless of your major or grade point average.

The Examinations and the Paper:

You will be tested on all material covered in the films, readings, and class discussions. In order to earn the highest grade possible, show me that you have read the assignments and taken detailed notes. None of the tests, including the final, will be comprehensive. You must also turn in an 8-12 page paper which analyzes an Asian American politics, civil rights, or public policy issue.

Your Grade will be Based on:

Class Participation and Discussion	10%
First Test	20%
Second Test	20%
Third Test	20%
Paper	30%

Grading Scale:

90 - 100	A	76-79	C+	60 - 65	D
86-89	B+	70- 75	C	56 - 59	F+
80-85	B	66 - 69	D+	Below 56	F

Class Schedule:

- 8-23 Introduction
- 8-28 NO CLASS (American Political Science Association Conference)
- 8-30 NO CLASS (American Political Science Association Conference)

Historical Forms of Civic Engagement and Protest

- 9-4 Lecture by Robert Scharr, "APA Voting Patterns: The Cases of California and Hawaii"

- 9-6 Reading from the Asian American Politics Book:
Understanding Asian American Politics, pp. 1-18
Takao Ozawa v. U.S., pp. 35-40
Yick Wo v. Hopkins, pp. 23-28
Recommended Readings:
Strangers from a Different Shore. Ronald Takaki. New York: A Back Bay Book, 2002.
Surrogate Slaves to American Dreamers (on reserve with the other course reserve articles)
Yellow: Race in American Beyond Black and White. Frank H. Wu. New York: Basic Books, 2002.
Racial and Ethnic Relations. Seventh Edition. Joe Feagin. New York: Praeger Publishers, 2003.

The Racial Profiling of Asian Americans

- 9-11 Readings from The Asian American Politics Book:
The Immigration Act of 1924, pp. 47-80
Profiling Principle, pp. 297-302
Wen Ho Lee and the Consequences of Enduring Asian American Stereotypes, pp. 303-316
Internet Reading:
Passenger Awarded \$400,000 in Racial Profiling Case
(<http://www.nbc6.net/news/10754704/detail.html>)
Recommended Reading:
My Country Versus Me: The First-Hand Account by the Los Alamos Scientist who Was Falsely Accused of Being a Spy. Wen Ho Lee.
- 9-13 Continued discussion of 9-11 readings

The Politics of Asian Americans in Hawaii

- 9-18 Film: The Massie Affair (60 minutes) In the early years of the 20th century, at a time when the U.S. Navy dominated Hawaii, Americans thought of the islands as a Pacific Paradise. But in 1931, an explosive incident shook the semblance of tranquility and exposed growing racial tensions. The alleged rape of a white woman by a group of Hawaiians led to violence and murder. The Massie affair inflicted a wound on the psyche of the Hawaiian people that has yet to heal.
Reserve Reading:
The Massie Case: Injustice and Courage
Internet Readings:
Timeline: Hawai'ian History and the Massie Case can be found at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/massie/timeline/index.html>.
Timeline: Hawai'ian History and the Massie Case (1931-1959) can be found at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/massie/timeline/timeline2.html>
Recommended Readings:
For more information on the Massie Affair and Hawaii Politics, see the following links:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/massie/peopleevents/p_thalia.html;
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/massie/sfeature/sf_sources.html;
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/massie/tguide/index.html>
- 9-20 Continued discussion of 9-18 readings

The Politics of Asian American Women

- 9-25 Guest lecture by Dr. Anita Anantharam, Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, "Feminism among South Asian Women"
Readings from the Asian American Politics Book:
Beyond Politics by Other Means, pp. 231-246
Transcending the Bamboo and Glass Ceilings, pp. 331-355
- 9-27 Reserve Readings:
A Slippery Path
Asian Sex-Slave Rings Busted in Vermont
Prostitution: White Slavery, Myth or Reality
Smuggled South Koreans Turn to Sex Slavery
Recommended Readings:
Confronting the Liberal Lies About Prostitution (on reserve with the white slavery reading)
Prostitution: A Difficult Issue for Feminists (on reserve with the white slavery reading)
Revolutions from the Heart: The Making of an Asian American Woman Activist, Yuri Kochiyama (on reserve)
The White Slave Traffic Act: The Historical Impact of a Criminal Law Policy on Women. Marlene D. Beckham, 72 Geo.L.J. 111 (1984)
- 10-2 **First test**
- Japanese American Internment and the Issue of Reparations
- 10-4 Guest lecture by Robert Scharr "Japanese American Political Behavior"
- 10-9 Film: Unfinished Business: The Japanese American Internment Cases (55 minutes) examines the internment of 120,000 Japanese, German, and Italian citizens and legal residents in "relocation centers" for 3 ½ years during the 1940s.
Reserve Readings:
Segregation Centers and Other Camps
Readings from the Asian American Politics Book:
Korematsu v. United States, 29-34
Japanese American Redress and Reparations, pp. 407-420
Recommended Reading:
Japanese Americans (on the course reserves page with the other reserve articles)
Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress by Mitchell T. Maki, Harry H.L. Kitano, and S. Megan Berthold. University of Illinois Press, 1999.
- 10-11 Reserve Readings:
The Myth of the American Concentration Camp
Reparations, Revisionism, and the Race Card
Recommended Readings:
In Defense of Internment. Michelle Malkin
Judgment Without Trial. Tetsuden Kashima

The Impact of Affirmative Action on Asian Americans

- 10-16 Film: A Question of Fairness (45 minutes) examines the issues involved in the landmark, recent Supreme Court case, *Gratz v. Bollinger*, which upheld the use of race in university admissions decisions, but struck down a points system at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
Reserve Readings:
Affirmative Action
For Asian Americans, A Barrier or a Boon?
The Darker Side of Quotas
- 10-18 Continued discussion of A Question of Fairness
Reading from The Asian American Politics Book:
The Affirmative Action Divide, pp. 377-406
* Don't forget that sercaal is tomorrow and Saturday.

Hurricane Katrina and Asian Americans in New Orleans

- 10-23 Film: Cops or Criminals? (45 minutes) Antoinette Frank was a New Orleans Police Officer who worked as a part-time security guard at a Vietnamese restaurant. She and an accomplice were found guilty of murdering two Vietnamese immigrants. This case exposed the extent of corruption in the New Orleans Police Department and the fact that local politicians were almost powerless to stop it.
Reading from The Asian American Politics Book:
Asian Pacific Americans and the Pan-Ethnic Question, 247-260
Reserve Reading:
Killer Behind a Badge
- 10-25.1 Guest lecture by Robert Scharr "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Vietnamese Americans in New Orleans"
Internet Readings:
Vietnamese Americans Use Their Media as Katrina Lifeline
(http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=538c5915a7a33299dea8192c1716c9c1)
Do It Yourself Disaster Relief Snubs New Orleans
(<http://newstandardnews.net/content/index.cfm/items/2753>)
Vietnamese Enclave Thrives After Katrina
(<http://ipsnorthamerica.net/news.php?idnews=652>)
- 10-30 **Second Examination**

The Asian American Movement: 1960s to Present

- 11-1 Reserve Readings:
Killing Free Speech in the Mass Media
Should Rosie O'Donnell and JV and Elvis Have Been Imused?
The Bill of Rights
Tsunami Song Fallout
Textbook Readings:
The Four Prisons and the Movements of Liberation, pp. 135-162
Serve the People, pp. 163-180
Recommended:
To listen to Hot 97's tsunami song, click on the link below:
<http://www.asianmediawatch.net/missjones/Readings from The Asian American Politics Book>:

- 11-6 Film: Who Killed Vincent Chin? (80 min.) discusses the 1982 murder of Chinese American Vincent Chin at a Detroit bar by two unemployed auto workers and the political mobilization efforts of Detroit's Asian communities after Chin's murderers received light sentences. It also examines the prejudiced views of Americans toward Asian citizens during a time of high unemployment in the auto industry.
Reserve Reading:
Detroit Blues
Recommended Readings:
Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People. Helen Zia
Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Asian-Indian Americans (On the course reserves page with the other course reserve articles)

- 11-8 Continued discussion of 11-6 readings

Challenges to Multiracial Coalition Development

- 11-13 **Papers are due**

Readings from the Koreans in the Hood Book:

The Dynamics of Black-Korean Conflict: A Korean American Perspective, pp. 91-112

The Middleman Minority Characteristics of Korean Immigrants in the U.S., pp. 131-156

Recommended Readings:

Conflict Between Korean Merchants and Black Customers, pp. 113-130 of the *Asian American Politics* textbook.

Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City. Claire Jean Kim.

The Politics of Minority Coalitions. Wilbur C. Rich.

- 11-15 Readings from the Asian American Politics Book:

America's First Multiethnic Riots, pp. 431-440

Readings from the Koreans in the Hood Book:

The Multiracial Nature of Los Angeles Unrest in 1992, pp. 17-38

Recommended Reading:

The 1992 Los Angeles Riots and the Black Korean Conflict, pp. 75-90 in the *Asian American Politics* textbook

- 11-20 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

- 11-22 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

- 11-27 Internet Readings:
Asian Americans Making their Voices Heard
(http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/news/local/article_1405139.php)
The Han Twins Murder Conspiracy
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Han_Twins_Murder_Conspiracy)
Orange County, California (focus on the politics section)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_County,_California#Politics)
Recommended Reading:
Legacies of Struggle: Conflict and Cooperation in Korean American Politics. Angie Chung.
- The Electoral Politics of Asian Indian Americans
- 12-4 Guest lecture by Ms. Upohar Haroon, “The Politics of South Asians”
Evaluate Class
Readings from the Asian American Politics Book:
U.S. v. Bhagat Singh Thind, pp. 41-46
Reserve Readings:
Bridges Across Continents
The Wilder Effect
Wild Ride in Louisiana Governor’s Race
Recommended Readings:
New Immigrants, New Forms of Transnational Community: Post 1965 Indian Migrations, pp. 181-192 of the *Asian American Politics* book
The Making of Asian America through Political Participation. Pei-te Lien. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2001.
The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community. Pei-te Lien and Margaret Conway. New York: Routledge Publishing, 2004.
The Political Participation of Asian Americans: Voting Behavior in Southern California. Pei-te Lien. New York: Garland Publishing, 1997
- 12-6 **Third Examination**