

Political Science 106AA **Asian American Politics**

**Fall 2008--** Time: T, H 2:00-3:15pm; Location: 387-103

Instructor: Pei-te Lien, Professor of Political Science affiliated with Asian American Studies

Office: 3709 Ellison Hall, 893-4983, plien@polsci.ucsb.edu

Hours: T 11:00am-1:30pm or by appointment

**Course Description:** Survey of the historical and contemporary political experiences of Asian Americans and their pursuits for immigration, equality, citizenship, political identity, racial justice, homeland independence, cross-racial/ethnic coalition-building, and incorporation into the U.S. political system. A term paper is required.

**Required Readings:**

Chang, Gordon. Ed. 2001. *Asian Americans and Politics: Perspectives, Experiences, Prospects*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Stanford University Press. (Chang)

Lien, Pei-te. 2001. *The Making of Asian America Through Political Participation*. Temple University Press. (Lien)

PoliSci 106AA Course Reader (referred to by individual authors thereafter, available at the Alternative Copy Shop, please call 805.968.1055 for information).

Required textbooks are available for purchase at the UCen Bookstore. A copy of the required textbooks and course reader is placed at the Reserve Desk of the Davidson Library.

**Recommended Books on Reserve:**

(#For students who wish to enhance their understanding of the general experiences of Asian Americans, try picking up one of the first four books from the library Reserve Desk.)

#Zia, Helen. 2000. *Asian American Dreams*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

#Wu, Frank. 2002. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*. New York: Basic Books.

#Takaki, Ronald. 1989. *Strangers from a Different Shore*. Boston: Little, Brown.

#Liu, Eric. 1998. *The Accidental Asian: Notes of a Native Speaker*. New York: Random House.

Chang, Michael. 2004. *Racial Politics in an Era of Transnational Citizenship*. Lexington Books. E184.A75 C48 2004

Chi, Tsung. 2005. *East Asian Americans and Political Participation: A Reference Book*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. E184.A75 C49 2005

Kim, Thomas. 2007. *The Racial Logic of Politics: Asian Americans and Party Competition*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Lien, Pei-te, M. Margaret Conway, and Janelle Wong. 2004. *The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community*. Routledge. E184.A75 L54 2004

Louie, Steve, and Glen Omatu. Eds. 2001. *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment*. UCLA Studies Center Press. E184.O6 A84265 2001

Nakanishi, Don, and James Lai. Eds. 2003. *Asian American Politics: Law, Participation, and Policy*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. E184.A75 A84145 2003

Saito, Leland. 1998. *Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos, and Whites in a Los Angeles Suburb*. University of Illinois Press. F869.M7 S25 1998

**Strategy & Goal:** The course will consist of lectures, discussions, and video presentations. The goal is to help each participant develop both a broad understanding of and a habit of thinking critically about important political issues facing today's Asian American community and its relationship to other American communities and US society as a whole. A commitment to participate actively in each class session is a must. As we will often be discussing unfamiliar, challenging, and controversial topics, it is important that you come to class having read and thought about the readings and are prepared to contribute to class discussion in a *mature* and *civilized* manner.

The University seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Disabled Students Program, 2120 Student Resource Building, 893-2668 to make arrangements for accommodations.

<b>Grading:</b>	Classroom Participation	25% (including quizzes)
	Midterm Exam (take-home)	25% (distributed 10/23, due 10/28 in class)
	Research Paper	25% (outline due 11/4—5%, paper due 12/4)
	Final Exam (take home)	25% (distributed 12/4, due 12/10, 3:30pm, EH3709)

**Attendance/Exam/Assignment Policy:** You are expected to be in class on time and to remain in class the entire time. Cell phone must remain off. Regular classroom attendance is required, as the contents of the exams will come from both assigned readings and materials presented in class. Absences make it more difficult and time-consuming for you to understand the class topics. If you have to be late or absent, you are responsible for making arrangements to obtain materials and information you missed. Exam dates and due dates for all assignments are fixed and final. Unexcused late submission is subject to a 20% penalty and must be completed soon as possible. All writing assignments, including take-home exam, need to be typed, double-spaced, page-numbered, and spell-checked.

The Research Paper should be about 10 typed pages and include at least 8 different citations (half of them must come from required readings) on a topic of your choice that is relevant to the class. It will be evaluated in terms of: 1) organization (presence of a research question, literature review, findings, and conclusion), 2) creativity (of topic selection and approach), 3) quality of research (number and variety of sources, depth of discussion), and 4) analysis (logic and consistency). Each student is strongly advised to meet with the instructor at least once during the quarter to discuss individual research topic and progress.

A total of five Quizzes will be conducted at the beginning of five randomly selected classes. It will contain brief response questions taken from materials discussed in the preceding class and assigned readings for the current week.

**Academic Misconduct:** Each student is expected to act with honesty and integrity, and to respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication of information, and plagiarism. Examples of cheating include looking at another student's exam, allowing another student to look at your exam, giving cues to others on

answers, referencing a “cheat sheet,” making arrangements to have another student take your exam in your place, gaining unauthorized access to an exam, working with others on assignments or exams without express permission from your instructor, and submitting the same paper or substantial portions of the same paper for multiple classes without express permissions of the instructor. Examples of fabrication include creating imaginary data and/or quotations and inventing references. Examples of plagiarism include failing to cite any major idea created by some other person or entity, failing to cite and/or enclose in quotation marks all words, phrases, and sentences copied from another source, failing to cite paraphrased work of others, and acquiring a paper or project from a research service or another source and submitting it as your work for academic evaluation. All instances of academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

**Topical Schedule:** (Note: Dates indicated are suggestive of the course progress; actual dates of coverage may somewhat differ. Please do not hesitate to ask if you are not sure of where we are.)

### **I. Introduction: Defining the Boundaries and Scope of Asian American Politics**

(9/25-10/2)

What is Asia? Who are Asian Americans? What is Asian American Studies vis-à-vis Asian Studies? What is Asian American politics vis-à-vis mainstream American politics and Asia politics? What may be the agendas for research on political experiences of Asian Americans?

Read: Chang, Ch. 4 (Nakanishi);

Hune, Shirley. 2001. “Asian American Studies and Asian Studies: Boundaries and Borderlands of Ethnic Studies.” In Johnella Butler ed., *Color-Line to Borderlands: The Matrix of American Ethnic Studies*, pp. 227-239.

### **II. The Nature of the Game: Struggles for Inclusion, Citizenship, and Suffrage** (10/7-9)

What is the nature of Asian American politics? How politically active or inactive were Asian Americans perceived? How had different groups of Asian American immigrants responded to the politics of exclusion prior to 1965? How have youth been involved in the domains of school, family, and community? What are the continuing challenges to the voting rights of Asian Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Read: Lien, Ch. 1; Chang, Chs. 1 (Chang), 9 (Kiang);

Magpantay, Glenn. 2004. “Ensuring Asian American Access to Democracy in New York City.” *AAPI NEXUS* 2(2): 87-117.

### **III. Immigration, Community Formation, and Contemporary Makeup** (10/14-16)

What was Congress’ rationale for excluding Asian immigration? What are the impacts of the U.S. immigration policy on the formation of the Asian American community? What happened in and after 1965? What are the demographic characteristics of the contemporary Asian American community?

Read: Chang, Chs. 8 (Chan); 10 (Khagram, Desai, and Varughese)

Min, Pyong Gap. 2006. “Asian Immigration: History and Contemporary Trends.” In Pyong Gap

Min, ed., *Asian Americans: Contemporary Trends and Issues*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Min, Pyong Gap. 2006. "Settlement Patterns and Diversity: History and Contemporary Trends." In Pyong Gap Min, ed., *Asian Americans: Contemporary Trends and Issues*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

**\*\*\*\*Take-home Midterm Exam distributed on 10/23, due on 10/28\*\*\*\***

**IV. The Asian American Movement and Theories of Racialization and Racial Positions (10/21-23)**

What is the Asian American Movement? What are the possibilities and constraints of a pan-Asian American group identity? What accounted for its rise, decline, and revival? What is unique about being Asian in U.S. racial politics? What is *Asiatic racialization* and *citizenship nullification*? What is the racial position of Asians as compared to Whites, Blacks, and other Nonwhites? How does *racial triangulation* work?

Read: Lien, Ch. 2; Chang, Chs. 2 (Kim), 3 (Gotanda);

Omatsu, Glenn. 1994. "The 'Four Prisons' and the Movement of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s." Pp. 19-67 in *The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s*, edited by Karin Aguilar-San Juan. Boston, MA: South End Press.

**V. Marching into Mainstream Electoral Politics (10/28-30)**

What accounted for the emergence of Asian American electoral politics in Hawaii and mainland states? Who among Asian Americans vote? Which party do they vote for? What explains their political behaviors? Why are they considered the "median voters"?

Read: Lien, Ch. 3; Chang, Chs. 6 (Ong and Lee), 5 (Cho and Cain);

Lien, Pei-te, Christian Collet, Janelle Wong, and Karthick Ramakrishnan. 2001. "Asian Pacific American Politics Symposium: Public Opinion and Political Participation." *PS: Political Science & Politics* XXXIV (3): 625-30.

**\*\*\*\*Term Paper Outline (must contain research question, problem statement, major works consulted) Due 11/4\*\*\*\***

**VI. Successes and Limitations in Electoral Politics (11/4-6)**

What accounted for the successes and failures of Asian American political campaigns? How did Gary Locke do it? How did Japanese Americans win redress and reparations for WWII internees? How well can they fare in the American two-party system?

Read: Chang, Ch. 13 (Yu and Yuan);

Kitano, Harry, and Mitchell Maki. 1997. "The Passage of Redress: The Proper Alignment Model." *Asian American Policy Review*: 55-72.

Lai, James, Wendy Cho, Thomas Kim, and Okiyoshi Takeda. 2001. "Asian Pacific American Campaigns, Elections, and Elected Officials." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34:

611-617.

Kim, Thomas. 2007. "Ideological Consensus and the American Two-Party System." Pp. 25-50 in *The Racial Logic of Politics: Asian Americans and Party Competition*. Temple.

### **VII. A Political Agenda for Women? (11/13)**

How significant is the role of gender in Asian American politics and political behavior? In what ways do Asian American women's political experiences and issue concerns differ from those of Asian American men and White women? What should be the agenda for APA women?

Read: Lien, Ch. 6; Chang, Ch. 7 (Lien)

Shah, Sonia. 1994. "Presenting the Blue Goddess: Toward a National Pan-Asian Feminist Agenda." In Karin Aguilar-San Juan ed., *The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s*. Boston: South End Press, pp. 147-157.

### **VIII. Linkages to the Homeland in Asia (11/18-20)**

How has "Asia" shaped the political fate and behavior of Asian Americans? Are homeland connections liabilities or assets for Asian Americans? What is the "Asian Donorgate"? What is the paradigm of dual domination and how does it apply to Chinese Americans? Can it be applied to understand the Vietnamese American politics?

Read: Chang, 12 (Wu and Youngberg), 14 (Watanabe);

Wang, Ling-chi. 2007. "The Structure of Dual Domination: Toward a Paradigm for the Study of the Chinese Diaspora in the United States." *Amerasia Journal* 33 (1): 145-165.

Dien Bui, James, Shirley Tang, and Peter Kiang. 2004. "The Local/Global Politics of Boston's Viet-Vote." *AAPI NEXUS* 2(2): 10-18.

### **IX. Politics in the Communities: What Ties that Bind? (11/25)**

Can Asian Americans be considered a political bloc? How significant is the role of ethnicity in Asian American politics? In what way was Korean American politics changed by the Los Angeles Riots?

Read: Lien, Ch. 5; Chang, Ch. 11 (Park);

**\*\*\*\*Term Paper due, Final Exam distributed on 12/4, in class\*\*\*\***

### **X. Confronting a Multiracial Reality and Possibilities of Coalition-Building (12/2, 4)**

Can we all get along? Can we transcend the ethnic and racial divide? What lessons can be drawn from the cases of redistricting in NY Chinatown and the reinstating of a school district superintendent in Orange County?

Read: Lien, Ch. 4; Chang, Ch. 15 (Saito);

Vo, Linda Trinh. 2007. "Whose School District Is This? Vietnamese Americans and Coalitional Politics in Orange County, California." *AAPI NEXUS* 5(2): 1-31.

**\*\*\*\*Final Exam due on 12/10 by 3:30pm EH 3709\*\*\*\***

## Some Useful Internet Resources and Selected Additional Readings:

APIA Vote [www.apiavote.org](http://www.apiavote.org) (check out the APIA Statistics & Data section)

*AsianWeek: The Voice of Asian America* <http://news.asianweek.com/news/>

New America Media <http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/>; click on news for “Asian” and “South Asian” ethnicities

Asian American Village [http://www.imdiversity.com/villages/asian/village\\_asian\\_american.asp](http://www.imdiversity.com/villages/asian/village_asian_american.asp)

Asian-Nation: Asian American History, Demographics, & Issues  
<<http://www.asian-nation.org/headlines/index.php>>

Model Minority: Asian American Empowerment <<http://modelminority.com/>>

Political Science Research Guides <<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subjects/polisci/poli.html>>

Asian American Studies Res. Guides <<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subjects/asianamer/asia.html>>

Hatamiya, Leslie T. 1993. *Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and the Passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Horton, John. 1995. *The Politics of Diversity: Immigration, Resistance, and Change in Monterey Park, California*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Hu-DeHart, Evelyn. 1999. *Across the Pacific: Asian Americans and Globalization*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Kwong, Peter. 1987. *The New Chinatown*. New York: Hill and Wang.

Maki, Mitchell, Harry Kitano, and Megan Berthold. 1999. *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtain Redress*. University of Illinois Press.

Ramakrishnan, S. Karthick. 2005. *Democracy in Immigrant America: Changing Demographics and Political Participation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Wei, William. 1993. *The Asian American Movement*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Wong, Janelle. 2006. *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.