AS 223
Digital Asia in America

Course Description
From fortune cookies to Far East Movement, Bruce Lee to PSY, Miss Saigon to Tiger Mom, what does Asia and being Asian mean in America? This course introduces the multiple cultural and historical productions that have shaped the study of Asia in America and the field of Asian American. This course is part of a pilot project to explore online instruction and learning in the humanities and will be organized according to an online format.

Discussion topics are primarily interdisciplinary in nature; a critical perspective on representation, ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality will guide this course in analyzing issues such as the portrayals of Asia/Asian in American media, Asian American identities, body images, stereotypes and model minority, diaspora and globalization, family and community, along with the histories and cultural practices of different Asian communities. The class will also examine current trends concerning Asia and the Pacific, immigration, laws and legislation, anti-Asian movements, economic opportunities, and “Asian pop” culture in the United States. Case studies include, but are not limited to, the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hmong, Vietnamese, Filipino, South Asian, and Hawaiian communities.

Through a wide range of online learning activities and digital projects, students will be able to examine not only the unique cultures and developments of the Asian American communities but also the concept and context of a diverse, multicultural America as a whole.

Instructor Information
Instructor: Ka Wong
Email: wongk@stolaf.edu
Phone: 507-786-3567
Office: TOH 351
Office Hours:
T & TH [4:00 - 5:00 PM] or by appointment

Resources
Digital Scholarship Center
http://pages.stolaf.edu/discc/

Course Research Guide
http://libraryguides.stolaf.edu/home

How to Guide & Tutorials
https://wp.stolaf.edu/t/teaching-and-learning/

Asian Studies Department
http://wp.stolaf.edu/asianstudies/
2 AS 223: Digital Asia in America

Course Format
This is a completely online course (except for the first and final meeting when the class will meet face-to-face). Readings will be available online and/or through our library (e-book) system. All assignments, discussions, quizzes, and projects will be accessed/submitted through the Moodle course site. Like other face-to-face classes, students are expected to spend 3 hours each week in class activities/forum discussion and at least 9 hours weekly to work on assignments, readings, and projects. The online format will require students to be self-disciplined learners. Most students indeed find online courses to be not less but more challenging than traditional classes.

The course objective is to introduce students to the major themes, arguments, and paradigms of analysis in the field of Asian/Asian American Studies; to foster critical thinking about the fundamental principles, approaches, and theories regarding cultural/area studies; to develop effective digital communicative skills.

Course Expectations
Much of the work for this course is conducted through Moodle, the course management system; if students are unfamiliar with Moodle, or have problems logging in, please contact the instructor or the IT help desk/staff as soon as possible. Both Moodle and IT have an excellent collection of tutorial videos, covering a range of subjects (such as posting on discussion forum, submission of assignments, website design & publishing, and creating digital recordings/films). Also, please check your college email account regularly, where the instructor will communicate with students both individually and as a group besides the Moodle site. Students should follow the course schedule, complete all readings/assignments, and participate actively in online discussions each week. In addition, students will lead the discussions and create various digital projects/presentations.

Academic Support Services
The course and its instructor(s) are committed to supporting the learning of all students in this class. Academic Support is available to students for learning, speaking, writing, English for multilingual students, and Accessibility Services for students with disabilities. If you have already registered with Disability and Access (DAC) and have your letter of accommodations, please meet with the instructor early in the course to discuss, plan, and implement your accommodations. If you have or think you have a disability (learning, sensory, physical, chronic health, mental health or attention), please contact DAC at 507-786-3288 or <wp.stolaf.edu/asc/dac>.

Required Texts


Other readings are available on the course Moodle. [M]

* E-book available through our library
I) Discussion Forum (Class Participation)

A key component of the online class experience is the Discussion Forum, where students virtually “attend” class, share their opinions, reflect on the readings, receive feedback on their ideas, ask questions, and learn from one another. Postings on forums are due on Fri 11:00 PM weekly (students are expected to spend 3 hours per week on Discussion Forum just like attending classes, although there is no synchronous meeting, and the timing is more flexible). There are 23 forums in total. Students thus should go on to Moodle at least several times a week to participate in the discussions, checking on new comments or adding something to the conversations. Just posting a question and not following others’ comments will not fare well for one’s grade as that barely qualifies as “interaction” and “discussion.” Please refer to the guideline/rubric for details.

II) Discussion Leadership

In Part III (Week 6-9), each student will serve as the leader for one article (marked with ⭐) in the respective theme/topic, in which the leader will present the main ideas of the reading, prepare questions for discussion, and moderate the discussion thread/inquires. Leaders ought to facilitate the discussion as well as encourage everyone to participate. The evaluations of the leader’s performance will be based on their preparedness, understanding of the readings, and the management of the discussion thread in the respective Discussion Forum, etc. A guideline/rubric will be handed out with details.

Grading

Grading will be based on class discussion forum, discussion leadership, quizzes, short papers, a digital presentation and a final project. The course grade will be determined as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I) Discussion Forum</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>II) Discussion Leadership</td>
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<td>III) Quizzes</td>
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<td>IV) Short Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>V) Digital Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI) Final Project</td>
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Grade Distribution

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<td>A</td>
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III) Quizzes
Online Moodle quizzes featuring true/false, multiple choice, short answers, & fill in the blank questions, based on assigned readings and films, must be completed by the due date/time (Mon 11:00 PM on the respective weeks). No late submission will be accepted. There are 11 quizzes in total; the lowest score will be dropped (only the top 10 scores will be counted).

The quizzes are “open book”; however, students are expected to take them alone, without consulting anyone or asking others for tips/answers, but may look at the readings for reference. All quizzes taken on Moodle are under the honor system. The honor system is considered violated when information which results in or could result in an unfair advantage for one or more students is given or received before, during or after a test.

IV) Short Papers
There are three short papers (appx. 2-3 pages/500-750 words) about the short videos (marked with▲) that deal with different aspects of the course discussion topics. The three papers are critical and personal response to the contents/arguments of the videos: first paper on one of the videos during Week 1-4; second paper on those during Week 6-9; and the third paper about the videos in Week 10-13. All papers are due on SAT 11:00 PM on the respective weeks.

The three papers should neither be synopsis nor summary of the video; it is meant to be a critique on the representations/portrayals/implications on Asian American experiences/histories and how the video narratives/arguments contradict or complement the overall ideas/theories from our readings/discussion forums. The short papers should offer a better/different understanding of Asia/Asian American issues, discuss how the video connects to other materials/issues/individual experiences that one finds relevant, and complement with one’s own personal take on the questions/arguments raised. Each paper must refer to at least one of the assigned readings.

These short papers are not designed as research papers (although diligent research is welcome); what really matter are original thoughts, reflections, critiques, and understanding of the materials. However, if ideas besides one’s own as well as quotations from other sources are mentioned in the paper, one must complete proper citations and provide a bibliography/reference; otherwise, it is considered to be plagiarism (see Honor Code & Academic Integrity).

V) Digital Presentation
Based on class discussions of representations/stereotypes, each student will present a 3-minute critical analysis on an Asian/Asian American “image” in historical/popular culture/mass media in digital format (such as a video, a PowerPoint Presentation/Prezi with audio track, an animation or short film). Topics may include but are not limited to historical images, scenes/characters from films & TV, arts, musicians & music videos, athletes, social media, and news/advertisements/events related to Asian American communities. All presentation files must be uploaded onto the Moodle site by the deadline on Week 5 (SAT 11:00 PM). A guideline and rubric will be handed out with details.
Recommended Readings


VI Final Project

The final project offers an opportunity to demonstrate students’ understanding of Asian/Asian American issues as well as digital presentation skills, working collaboratively to create a WordPress site about *Asia in America*. Each student will be responsible for one multimedia web section on a self-selected topic that addresses a particular issue/aspect about Asian/Asian American experiences and that one finds most interesting and compelling. A guideline will be handed out with details.

Netiquette

"Netiquette" refers to the standards for appropriate interaction in an online environment. Students are expected to display proper netiquette in their communications with the instructor and with one another, such as using proper written English, being polite, disagreeing respectfully when necessary, including your name and other necessary identifiers on all communications. Many of the topics covered in class like race, immigration, gender, and sexuality can be controversial and personal, especially in current political climate. If one finds a posting or email disconcerting, please notify the instructor immediately in a private manner.

The class expectation is that everyone will abide by the rules outlined in Virginia Shea’s *Netiquette*, which are summarized by Colorado State University at this site: [http://learning.colostate.edu/guides/guide.cfm?guideid=4](http://learning.colostate.edu/guides/guide.cfm?guideid=4). Students should read and familiarize with these guidelines. They should be considered as policy for this course.

Honor Code & Academic Integrity

College policies concerning academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. It is the students’ responsibility to familiarize themselves with these policies. Academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism, falsification of documents, & cheating on quizzes, etc.) will not be tolerated and are subject to sanctions. Penalties for violations may result in a failure in the course.

Students must comply with the honor system in taking quizzes and avoid plagiarism when submitting written work for a grade. Plagiarism means any use of other materials (from book/articles to Wikipedia/Internet/blogs) where the person does not credit the source. Even if one paraphrases other people’s ideas, it is still considered using another source and must complete citation (a Works Cited page or Reference/Bibliography is needed); failure to do so is plagiarizing. Please refer to *The Book* for details:

[http://wp.stolaf.edu/thebook/academic/integrity](http://wp.stolaf.edu/thebook/academic/integrity)
Selected Readings [Available on Moodle]


Yi, D. "As an Asian American, I am Invisible in This Country," The Huffington Post (Nov 14, 2016). <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/as-an-asian-american-i-am-invisible-in-this-country_us_582a0199e4b0b2b1f5257afa6b>


PART I: INTRODUCTION—CONCEPT & FRAMEWORK

Asia has long played an important yet at times ambivalent role in American history, politics, and popular imagination. Who are the “Asians” and “Asian Americans”? Ethnicity is often perceived as a “natural” or inevitable consequence of cultural differences. On what basis can one label “Asians” an ethnic group? What role might academic disciplines play in the formation of cultural and political identities, and how might cultural studies approaches lend insights to a better understanding of Asia and Asian America in particular, and America as a multicultural whole?

Week 1

What’s in a Name?
Course Introduction
“Legal Chronology of Asian American History” [M]
▲ What kind of Asian are you?
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWynJkN5HbQ&t=8s>
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4scUSyJ168o>
  • Discussion Forum 1.0

Week 2

Breaking Bad
Stangor + Schaller, “Stereotypes as...Representations” (pp.3-18) [M]
Chow, “The Inevitability of Stereotypes...” (pp.49-54) [M]
  • Discussion Forum 1.1

Disorient Orientalism
Said, “Introduction” in Orientalism (pp.1-28) [M]
▲ An Introduction to Edward Said’s Orientalism
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZlyXEf1Aas>
▲ Asian American Performers Action Coalition, “Beyond Orientalism”
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPp6I1xK6Ul?>
  • Discussion Forum 1.2

PART II: REPRESENTATIONS VS STEREOTYPES—FROM YELLOW PERIL TO MODEL MINORITY

What stereotypes of Asians are being culturally produced in America? How true are they? Asians are infamously classified as having the “Perpetual Foreigner Complex,” as they cling tenaciously to their culture and refuse to assimilate into their host societies. Meanwhile, Asians are also referred to as the “Model Minority,” for they are hardworking, docile, and successful. How do these stereotypes impact the society at large and the Asian Americans themselves?

Week 3

The Minority Reports
Wu, “The Perpetual Foreigner” [M]
▲ A. Li, “Why Asian Americans are not the Model Minority”
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TQk1UEb2z>
  • Discussion Forum 2.1

Quiz 1
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<tr>
<th><strong>Comic Hero</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Yang, “American Born Chinese”</td>
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<td>▲ Life Sketch - Cartoonist Gene Luen Yang</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UNgwwQeNj8&amp;t=296s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UNgwwQeNj8&amp;t=296s&gt;</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>▲ America.gov Presents American Born Chinese</td>
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<td>• Discussion Forum 2.2</td>
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<td><strong>Family Affairs</strong></td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chua, “Why Chinese Mothers are Superior” [M]</td>
<td>(DUE M 11:00 PM)</td>
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<td>C.R. Lee, “Coming Home Again” [M]</td>
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<td>Tan, “Mother Tongue” [M]</td>
<td>Discussion Forum 2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>▲ Tiger Mom - Amy Chua speaks to Channel 4 News</td>
<td>(DUE F 11:00 PM)</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDdEnKPA5_s&amp;t=128s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDdEnKPA5_s&amp;t=128s&gt;</a></td>
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<td>• Discussion Forum 2.3</td>
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<td><strong>Mother Dearest</strong></td>
<td>Paper 1 Due</td>
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<td>• Discussion Forum 2.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food for Thought</strong></td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manalansan IV, “Cooking up the Senses…” [M]</td>
<td>(DUE M 11:00 PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mannur, “Model Minorities Can Cook…” [M]</td>
<td>Discussion Forum 2.5</td>
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<td>• Discussion Forum 2.5</td>
<td>(DUE F 11:00 PM)</td>
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<td><strong>Digital Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Digital Presentation Due</td>
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<td>▲ J. Lee, “A Hunt for General Tso”</td>
<td>(DUE S 11:00 PM)</td>
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<td>• Digital Presentation Q &amp; A</td>
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### PART III: ONCE UPON A TIME IN AMERICA—HISTORIES, DIASPORAS, & COMMUNITIES

Asians have been included in the workplaces and markets of the United States for centuries; however, through exclusion laws and bars from citizenship, many have been historically distanced from the terrain of national culture and were even “locked up” during war time. What were the histories of Asians in the United States? What was the main attraction for Asians to immigrate to America? How has the “Asian American experience” changed over time? Major Asian American ethnic groups in Minnesota, such as Chinese, Japanese, Hmong, and Korean, are points of discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Chinese</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>★ Takaki, “Gam Saan Haak” [SFDS pp.79-131]</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ E. Lee, “The Chinese Exclusion Example” [M]</td>
<td>(DUE M 11:00 PM)</td>
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<td>▲ The Chinese Exclusion Act</td>
<td>Discussion Forum 3.1</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3YwtmZwpIY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3YwtmZwpIY&gt;</a></td>
<td>(DUE F 11:00 PM)</td>
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<td><strong>Japanese</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>★ Takaki, “Ethnic Solidarity” [SFDS pp.179-229]</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ Burton, “A Brief History of Japanese Americans...” [M]</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ George Takei, “Why I Love a Country That Once Betrayed Me”</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeBKFAPwNc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeBKFAPwNc&gt;</a></td>
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<td>• Discussion Forum 3.2</td>
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<td><strong>Fall Break</strong></td>
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</table>
**Korean**
- Takaki, “Struggling Against Colonialism” [SFDS pp.270-293]
- Kim, “Home is where the Han is” [AASN, pp.80-98]
- S. Woo, “Korean Americans: Past & Present”  
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yUoDGlX3Bc>
  - Discussion Forum 3.3

**Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders**
- Takaki, “Raising Cane” [SFDS pp.132-178]
- History of Hawaii <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0N9j4eZhE>
  - Discussion Forum 3.4

**Hmong**
- Quincy, “From War to Settlement…” [M]
- Hmong Story 40 - Documentary on Galen Beery  
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I5rG0W-mbu>
  - Discussion Forum 3.5

**Southeast Asians**
- Tang, “Collateral Damage: Southeast Asian …” [AASN, pp.454-476]
- Vô, “The Vietnamese American Experience…” [M]
- I Was a Boat Person <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQTviKm9Mx0>
  - Discussion Forum 3.6

**South Asians**
- Takaki, “The Tide of Turbans” [SFDS pp.294-314]
- Maira, “Youth Culture… South Asian Muslim…” [AASN, pp.333-353]
- SAALT, “An America for All of Us: Reflections and Action”  
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwCLbnjJecuc>
  - Discussion Forum 3.7

**PART IV: GENDER, BODY, & SEXUALITY—FROM KUNG FU MASTER TO ORIENTAL BUTTERFLY**

What are the gendered images of Asian American male and female? Asian American men and women are perceived very differently in the American context. The most common perception of Asian men is asexual and non-romantic, whereas Asian women are often seen as exotic and sensual. Why are Asian men depicted as martial art heroes, as muscular and physically strong yet they rarely “get the girl” in most American film/media portrayals? Why do Asian women always fall for the non-Asian protagonist at the end? What is the historical foundation of these gender roles? How do these gendered stereotypes play a role in social, romantic, and sexual relationships among Asians? Furthering the discussion on gender, sexuality, family tradition, and parental-expectations, what is dating like for an Asian in America? How do sexuality play a role in forming the Asian American identity?

**Asian Masculinities**
- Chua & Fujino, “Negotiating New Asian American Masculinities” [M]
- Shimizu, “Claiming the Power of Lack…” [M]
- Where Stereotypes about Asian-American Men Come From  
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kF18Cqy53c>
- Fung Bros - 15 Types of Asian Guys  
  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R42lz17qAU&index=2&list=RDqW1a3UOAlaw>
  - Discussion Forum 4.1

| Quiz 5 | (DUE M 11:00 PM) |
| Quiz 6 | (DUE M 11:00 PM) |
| Quiz 7 | (DUE M 11:00 PM) |
| Paper 2 Due | (DUE S 11:00 PM) |
| Quiz 8 | (DUE M 11:00 PM) |
| Discussion Forum | (DUE F 11:00 PM) |
| Asian Femininities | Final Project Proposal Due  
|-------------------|---------------------------
| Nemoto, “Intimacy, Desire, and the Construction of Self” [M]  
Zane, “Reflections on a Yellow Eye” [M]  
▲ Julie Chen: Asian Plastic Surgery  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGcgn65db5A>  
▲ Fung Bros - 18 Types of Asian Girls  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW1a3UOAlaw&t=90s>  
• Discussion Forum 4.2 |

| Week 11 | Quiz 9  
|---------|---------------------------
| **Butterfly Effect**  
Hwang, *M. Butterfly* [M, pp. 1-69]  
• Discussion Forum 4.3 |

| Final Fantasies | Discussion Forum  
|----------------|---------------------------
| Hwang, *M. Butterfly* [M, pp. 85-93]  
Eng, “Heterosexuality in the Face of Whiteness” [M]  
▲ David Henry Hwang Talks about “M. Butterfly”  
Pt. 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzKx4MV4pQ>  
Pt. 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ0wlcwYLYc&t=95s>  
• Discussion Forum 4.4 |

**PART V: CONCLUSION: MULTIPLE IDENTITIES & POSTMODERNITY**

In the “postmodern” twenty-first century, how does the future look for Asian Americans and Asian American studies? What are the potential problems that they may encounter? Are Asian becoming white? Is there even a need for racial label in today’s increasingly multicultural American society, or will local/ethnic cultural identity become even more important in our transnational world? How is studying Asian Americans in the Midwest different from the coastal areas?

| Week 12 | Quiz 10  
|---------|---------------------------
| **Between Black and White**  
Ancheta, “Neither Black nor White” [AASN pp. 21-34]  
Perez, “How to rehabilitate a Mulatto…” [AASN, pp. 405-422]  
▲ NY Times, “A Conversations with Asians on Race”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OutYzBDwBM>  
▲ Letter for Black Lives <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrR-8_odGh4>  
• Discussion Forum 5.1 |

| Thanksgiving |

| Week 13 | Quiz 11  
|---------|---------------------------
| **Past, Present, & Future**  
Zhou, “Are Asian American Becoming ‘White?’” [M]  
Guo, “The Real Reasons the US Become Less Racist…” [M]  
▲ Watters’ World: Chinatown edition  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJmnlzw8NA4>  
▲ The O’Reilly Factor* Gets Racist in Chinatown  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX8jZTN0CdU&t=9s>  
• Discussion Forum 5.2 |

| Asia in the Midwest |

| Week 14 | Discussion Forum  
|---------|---------------------------
| **Asia in Minnesota**  
Wong, *Asia in Minnesota* series  
• Discussion Forum 5.4 |
**Conclusion**

Yi, “As an Asian American, I am Invisible…”
<http:www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/as-an-asian-american-i-am-invisible-in-this-country_us_582a019be4b02b1f5257a6f8>
- Discussion Forum 5.5

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<th>Week 15</th>
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<th>Week 16</th>
<th><strong>Final Project</strong></th>
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Your being officially enrolled for the course will be taken as confirmation that you have read and understood this syllabus, and agree to its requirements and other relevant conditions stated therein.