

*****SUBJECT TO FINAL CHANGES MADE IN CLASS*****

Political Science 5430 & Ethnic Studies 5430 **Asian American Politics**

Spring 2007 M, W 11:50am-1:10pm Social & Behavioral Sciences (Beh) 109

Instructor: Pei-te Lien, Associate Professor of Political Science and Ethnic Studies

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Hours: M/W 10:00-11:00am, 1:10-2:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description: Survey of the historical and contemporary political experience of Asian Americans and their pursuits for immigration, citizenship, political identity, equality, justice, homeland independence, and incorporation into the U.S. political system. A formal research paper is required.

Required Books:

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

Nakanishi, Don, and James Lai. Eds. 2003. *Asian American Politics: Law, Participation, and Policy*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. (NL)

Required textbooks are available for purchase at the U. Bookstore. A copy of the required textbooks and recommended books are placed at the Reserve Desk of the Marriott Library. The assigned articles are available on-line as Electronic Reserve, accessible via the Marriott Library home page

<http://www.lib.utah.edu/libraryinfo/dept/reserve/>, first login to the Student Portal, then navigate to "Academics".

Recommended Books on Reserve:

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

Lien, Pei-te. 2001. *The Making of Asian America Through Political Participation*. Temple University Press. E184.O6 L53 2001

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

Maki, Mitchell, Harry Kitano, and Megan Berthold. 1999. *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtain Redress*. University of Illinois Press. D769.8.A6 M29 1999 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: This is a discussion-emphasis class, assisted with background lectures and multimedia presentations. The goal is to help each participant develop both a broad understanding of and critical thinking ability about important political issues facing today's Asian American and other American communities. A commitment to participate actively in each class session is a must. Each student is

expected to serve at least once during the semester as a discussion leader. He or she is required to meet with the instructor beforehand to prepare for that role. 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.

Students who wish to improve their writing may receive free help from the University Writing Center <http://www.writingcenter.utah.edu/>, located on the third floor of the Marriott Library. Students who use the center are expected to participate fully in the consultation process by scheduling appointments many days before the assignment in question is due. As it is against center policy to “edit” or “correct” papers, writing center staff strongly urge students to come with specific questions and concerns for discussion and revision.

The University of Utah 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 Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Grading:	Classroom Participation	15%
(PS/ES5430)	Short Response Paper	25% (see below for details)
	Midterm Exam (Take home)	20% (distribute on 2/28, due 3/5, in class)
	Research Paper	25% (outline due 3/12—5%, paper due 4/23, in class)
	Final Exam* (Take home)	15% (distribute on 4/25, due 5/2, 12pm, OSH152B)

*may be waived for students who consistently perform at the excellent level

** You must earn a grade of C- or above to receive the diversity credit.

Attendance/Exam/Assignment Policy: 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; you are also required to submit any writing assignment due before class time (via email). Exam dates and due dates for all assignments are fixed and final. Late submissions may be subjected to a 20% penalty and must be completed soon as possible. All writing assignments, including take-home exams, need to be typed, double-spaced, page-numbered, and spell-checked.

To encourage thoughtful attention to the assigned readings and informed discussion of each weekly topic, each student is required to submit a Short Response Paper every Monday when the class meets (except for Topic I and Topic VI when the due date falls on a Wednesday). In total, there are 11 entries for each of the major topics; the specific due dates are 1/17, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/21, 3/5, 3/12, 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9. Each entry should be about 2 pages. You are expected to summarize and evaluate the most important points raised in the respective set of assigned readings for each topic. You may also use the opportunity to communicate your observations and thoughts on comments made and materials presented in the previous classes. For each entry, you are advised to begin by identifying the specific readings you have done by **chapter**/journal **author**(s) name(s) and **page** numbers. You may want to comment not only on what you have read, but also on what you have learned, what concepts or ideas are important and/or new to you, and what concepts or ideas are difficult or unclear to you. To help deliver your point of

concern or inquiry, it may often be necessary to mention a specific page or pages

The Research Paper should be about 13-15 typed pages and include at least 9 different citations presented in styles shown in the handout. 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 advised to meet with the instructor at least twice during the semester to discuss individual research project and progress.

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

I. Introduction: Defining the Scope of Asian American Politics (1/8, 10, 17)

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? What may be the agendas for research on political experiences of Asian Americans?

Read: NL, 3.1 (Nakanishi); Chang, 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. Historical Struggles for Equal Protection and Equal Rights (1/22, 24)

How had different groups of Asian Americans been denied participation into the U.S. political system? How did each group of immigrants react to the politics of exclusion prior to 1965? How politically active or inactive were Asian Americans perceived?

What is a research process? How to read and write a research report? How to conduct a library search on Asian Americans? (meet with Peter Kraus, 1/20 1:00-1:45pm, Rm 1735, Marriot Library)

Read: Chang, 1 (Chang); Lien, 1 "Charting a Hidden Terrain"; NL, 1.1-4, the Supreme Court cases; Handout on writing a research report

III. Immigration, Community Formation, and Contemporary Makeup (1/29, 31)

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: Ngai, 1 "The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924..."; NL, 2.2 (Hing); Chang, 8 (Chan); Skim NL, 2.1 (Makela).

IV. The Asian American Movement and Theories of Racialization and Racial Positions (2/5, 7)

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: NL 3.3 (Omatsu), 3.4 (Geron); Chang, 2 (Kim), 3 (Gotanda).

V. Marching into Mainstream Electoral Politics (2/12, 14)

What accounts for the emergence of Asian American electoral politics? When and where? Who are the Asian American voters? What explains their behaviors? Why are they considered the “median voters”?

Read: NL, Introduction (Nakanishi and Lai), 3.2 (Ong and Nakanishi); Chang, 6 (Ong and Lee), 5 (Cho and Cain).

VI. Successes and Limitations in Electoral Politics (2/21, 26)

What account for the successes and failures of Asian American political campaigns? How did Gary Locke do it? What are the possible empowerment strategies for Asian Americans?

Read: NL, 3.14 (Lai et al.), (skim NL, 3.16-19); Chang, 13 (Yu and Yuan); NL, 3.8 (Brackman and Erie)

VII **Midterm Reflections and Take-Home Exam 2/28******

VIII. A Political Agenda for Women? (3/5, 7)

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: NL, 3.15 (E. Ong), 3.7 (Wong); Chang, 7 (Lien);

Chu, Judy. 1989. “Asian Pacific American Women in Mainstream Politics.” In Asian Women United of California, *Making Waves*, pp. 405-421.

Shah, Sonia. 1997. “Presenting the Blue Goddess: Toward a National Pan-Asian Feminist Agenda.” In Cathy Cohen et al. (eds), *Women Transforming Politics*, pp. 541-548.

******Term Paper Outline (containing research question, problem statement, planned action, major paper components) Due 3/12******

IX. Linkages to the Homelands in Asia: Media and Racial Profiling (3/12, 14)

How has “Asia” shaped the political fate and behavior of Asian Americans? Are homeland connections liabilities or assets for Asian Americans? What are the similarities and differences between the John Huang case and the Wen Ho Lee case? How should the community respond?

Read: Chang, 12 (Wu and Youngberg), 14 (Watanabe); NL, 3.10 (Lee), NL, 3.11 (Wang), 3.13 (Turnbull); Skim NL, 3.12 (Wu).

******Happy Spring Break, No Class on 3/19, 21******

X. Linkages to the Homelands in Asia: Transnational Politics (3/26, 28)

What is homeland politics? How central is homeland concerns in Asian American politics? In what ways has involvement with the politics of the homeland influenced the political participation of Asian Indian, Filipino, and other Asian Americans?

Read: NL, 3.5 (Shukla); Chang, 10 (Khagram, Desai, and Varughese);

Bello, Madge, and Vincent Reyes. 1987. "Filipino Americans and the Marcos Overthrow." *Amerasia* 13(1): 73-83.

Lien, Pei-te. 2006. "Transnational Homeland Concerns and Participation in U.S. Politics: A Comparison among Immigrants from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong." *Journal of Chinese Overseas* 2(1):56-78.

XI. Politics in the Communities: What Ties that Bind? (4/2, 4)

How significant is the role of ethnicity in Asian American politics? How do the political style and concerns of Asian Indian Americans differ from those of Korean Americans?

How did Japanese Americans win redress and reparations for WWII Japanese American internees?

Read: NL, 3.6 (Lien), 4.2 (Kitano and Maki), 4.4 (E. Chang); Chang, 11 (Park).

XII. Confronting a Multiracial Reality and Possibilities of Coalition-Building (4/9, 11)

Can we all get along? Can we transcend the ethnic and racial divide? Lessons from Redistricting and the Affirmative Action debate

Read: Chang, 15 (Saito); NL, 4.5 (Saito), 3.9 (Lai), 4.1 (Ong).

XIII. Individual Consultation (4/16, 18)

******Term Paper due 4/23******

XIV. Oral Presentation and Conclusion (4/23, 25)

(About 5 minutes each for presentation, plus Q & A, participation is mandatory)

Review for final exam and distribute take-home questions on 4/25

******Take-home Final Exam due on 5/3 at 2pm OSH 152B; You may******

Some Suggested Additional Readings and/or Research Resources:

Political Science Research Guides <http://www.lib.utah.edu/ResGuides/polisci.html>

Ethnic Studies Res. Guides <http://www.lib.utah.edu/ResGuides/Ethnic_Studies.html>

AsianWeek <<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>

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

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

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

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

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

Reimers, David. 2005. *Other Immigrants: The Global Origins of the American People*. New York: New York 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.