How do race and culture determine who belongs to the nation? For instance, how can ethnic minorities at times be held up as “model minorities” but still be denied full citizenship? We answer these questions by examining Asian Americans’ efforts for civic inclusion and social justice. Topics include immigration and citizenship law, empire, race, labor and popular culture, which will be addressed from an intersectional approach. The enduring structure and reproduction of inequalities along axes of class, race and gender will be core concerns of this course.

Required Readings:

Lee, Erika, *At America’s Gates: Chinese Immigration in the Exclusion Era*
Kim, Nadia, *Imperial Citizens: Koreans and Race from Seoul to LA*
Lee, J & Zhou M., *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity*
Wu, Frank, *Yellow: Race in American Beyond Black and White*
Rudrappa, Sharmila, *Ethnic Routes to Becoming American: Indian Immigrants and the Cultures of Citizenship*
Kang, Miliann, *The Managed Hand: Race, Gender, and the Body in Beauty Service Work*

Course Requirements:

1. Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and offer constructive/critical comments on the course materials. Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will count against your final grade.
2. There will be two required papers (10-12 pages). The topic will be assigned by the instructor. These two papers will make up 70 percent of your final grade.
3. You are required to bring two typed discussion questions from the readings to class on Fridays. You will be graded on your in-class participation and your comprehension of the course materials. Your in-class participation will make up 30 percent of your final grade.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Week 1) Introduction
Feb 7: Basic Concepts

Week 2) Thematic Concerns in the Study of Asian America
Feb 14: Framing Asian American Studies
Daniels, Takaki, Yanagisako, Bonacich, Ong Hing (Blackboard reading)
Week 3) Crossing Borders  
Feb 21: S. Chan “The International Context of Asian Immigration” (blackboard)  
R. Baldoz, “The Racial Vectors of Empire” in R. Baldoz, The Third Asiatic Invasion: Empire and Migration in Filipino America (Blackboard)

Week 4) Constructing and Enforcing Borders  
Feb 28: E. Lee, At America’s Gates, chapters 1-6

Week 5) Post-1965 Immigration and the Politics of Assimilation  
March 7: A. Portes and R. Rumbaut “Growing Up American” in Portes and Rumbaut Immigrant America  
R. Waldinger, “The Bounded Community: Turning Foreigners into Americans” (Blackboard)

Week 6) Paths and Barriers to Integration  
March 14: S. Rudrappa, Ethnic Routes to Becoming American, chapters 1-6  
**Paper Due: March 18**

Week 7) Asian Americans as “Model Minority”  
March 21: F. Wu, Yellow: Race in American Beyond Black and White, chapter 2  
Other readings TBA

March 28: Spring Break

Week 8) Youth and Culture  
April 4: Lee and Zhou, Asian American Youth, chapters 2, 9, 10, 12, 13

Week 9) Remaking the American Mainstream  
April 11: Lee and Zhou, Asian American Youth, chapters 8, 15, 16, 18

Week 10) Asian Americans and the Changing Racial Landscape of the United States  
April 18: F. Wu, Yellow: Race in American Beyond Black and White, chapters 1, 3-5  
M. Zhou “Are Asian Americans Becoming White?” (Blackboard reading)

Week 11) Globalization and the Changing Politics of Citizenship  
April 25: N. Kim, Imperial Citizens: Koreans and Race from Seoul to LA, whole book

Week 12) Gender and Work in Asian America  
May 2: M. Kang, The Managed Hand: Race, Gender, and the Body in Beauty Service Work, whole book

Week 13) Changing Landscape of Asian America  
May 9: J. Lee and F. Bean “Reinventing the Color Line” in Social Forces, 2007 (Blackboard reading)

May 16: Finals-- Paper # 2: Due Date TBA

*The instructor reserves the rights to amend/revise the syllabus at his discretion*

**Honor Code:** This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. Please contact me if you have any questions about citation, or the relationship of the Honor Code to your work in this course. For more information on the Honor Code, see [http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html).