Immigrants from Asia began to arrive in the United States in large numbers during the mid-nineteenth century and have played a central role in American society since that time. Today, about half of the people immigrating to the United States are from Asia and U.S. political-economic relations with Asian nations are more entangled than ever before. This course will explore the changing experiences of Asian immigrants and Asian Americans within the larger context of immigration and stratification in American society. Topics include immigration, race, labor, and culture, which will be addressed from a comparative perspective. The enduring structure and reproduction of inequalities along axes of class, race, and nationality will be core themes of this course.

Required Readings:

Dhingra P. & Rodriguez R. *Asian America: Sociological and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*
Kim, Eleana *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoption and the Politics of Belonging*
Cheng, Wendy *The Changs Next Door to the Diazes: Remapping Race in Suburban California*
Antonio Tiongson *Filipinos Represent: DJ’s, Racial Authenticity and Hip Hop Nation*

Course Requirements:

**Attendance and class participation:** Debate and discussion will be an integral component of the class. All students are required to bring a short one-page response to the weekly assigned readings for Wednesday’s class session which will be used a the basis for class discussion. Students will be evaluated on your ability to analyze and dissect the issues raised in the course materials. You must turn in a hard copy of your response essay and be present in class to receive full credit. This requirement will make up 10 percent of your final grade.

**Papers and Exam:** There are 2 papers due during the semester, each 9-10 pages. The purpose of the paper is to give you an opportunity to expand on the themes raised in the readings. The format and specifics of each paper will be discussed in class. The papers will draw from course readings and discussion. *Each paper is worth 35% of your final grade* There will also be 1 exam that is *worth 20% of your final grade*. Your weekly response essays and participation make up the other 10% of your grade.

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**Week 1) Framing Asian American Studies**

**Week 2) Crossing Borders**
Sept 8: P. Dhingra and R. Rodriguez *Asian America*, chs. 2-3
Week 3) Cold War Politics and the Invention of the Model Minority

Week 4) Assimilation and Panethnicity
Sept 22: P. Dhingra and R. Rodriguez, Asian America, ch. 7
Y. L. Espiritu, Asian American Panethnicity, ps. 1-52 (blackboard)

Week 5) Cultural Citizenship and Belonging

Week 6) Race, Gender, and Power
Oct 6: K. Nemoto, “Interracial Romance: The Logic of Acceptance and Domination” in S. Seidman, Introducing the New Sexuality Studies ps. 221-228
C. Feliciano et al. “Gendered Racial Exclusion Among White Internet Daters” Social Science Research, 2009 ps. 39-54
P. Dhingra and R. Rodriguez Asian America, ch.6

Week 7) Cultural Formations
Oct 13: P. Dhingra and R. Rodriguez Asian America ch.8
L. Siu, “Twenty-First Century Food Trucks: Mobility, Social Media, and Urban Hipness” in R. Ku, M. Manalansan & A. Mannur, Eating Asian America ps. 231-244

Oct 20: Fall Break

Week 8) Race and Representation
S. Dave, “The Asian American Dream: Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle and the Pan-Ethnic Buddy Film” in S. Dave, Indian Accents: Brown Voice and Racial Performance in American TV and Film
M. Leung, “Jeremy Lin’s Model Minority Problem,” Contexts, ps. 52-56

Week 9) Culture, Authenticity and Hybridity
Nov 3: A. Tiongson, Filipinos Represent: DJs, Racial Authenticity and Hip Hop Nation, whole book

Week 10) Reinventing the Color Line
Nov 10: M. Zhou “Are Asian Americans Becoming White?” Contexts 2004 ps. 29-37
The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans

Week 11) The Rise of the Multiracial Ethnoburb

Week 12) Contested Citizenship

Week 13) **Political Voice and Identity**
P. Dhingra and R. Rodriguez, *Asian America*, chs. 9, 11

Week 14) **Conclusion**

*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).