CAST 307: Between the Lines: Asian American Women, History, and Memory  
Spring 2014, Tuesday 1:00 – 2:50pm [KING 339]

Professor Maria Paz G. Esguerra  
Office: King 141-F  
Office Hours: Monday | Wednesday, 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment  
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While I make every effort to respond promptly to emailed questions and concerns, I will respond to emails within one business day from Monday to Friday. If you are having trouble making it to my office hours, I am happy to schedule an appointment with you.

Course Overview
This is a reading seminar designed to introduce students to various literature that explore Asian American women’s lives and experiences. We will read materials that explore history, identity, community life, family, politics, and language. The course covers a brief history, and will analyze categories of race, gender, sexuality, and race to explore Asian American women’s experiences.

Required Books:
Kaling, Mindy. *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)* ISBN: 9780307886279  
Lee, Jennifer 8. *Fortune Cookie Chronicles*  
Monrayo, Angeles. *Tomorrow’s Memories: A Diary, 1924-1928*  

Books are available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore and on reserve at Mudd Library. Other required readings will be available on Blackboard or distributed in class.

Assignments
Weekly Response Papers [30%] Every week you are responsible for a 1-page single-spaced response to the readings that briefly summarizes the text, but more importantly, critiques and analyzes its contribution to our understanding of Asian American women’s history.

Seminar Facilitation [20%] As a member of the seminar, you will be asked to facilitate one class session in the semester. You have a great deal of flexibility in how to facilitate seminar, but class discussion must focus on the readings, the argument, key points from the texts and larger themes and questions. Please meet with me to discuss your ideas for class.

Final Project [50%] This final paper is an opportunity to discover new aspects of the Asian American experience through oral history. For this final paper, you will write a 12-15 page oral history essay based on an interview you conduct. Using themes and materials in class you will place your subject’s life history into the context of U.S. history. You will be responsible for submitting the paper and the transcript of your interview. You will also provide a copy of the paper and the transcript to the person you interview.
Spring 2014 Course Schedule

February 4:  Introductions and Course Overview

February 11:  Approaches to reading Asian American women, history, and memory
              Yamada, “Asian American Pacific Women and Feminism”
              Mazumdar, “A Woman-Centered Perspective on Asian American History”

February 18:  Migration, Settlement, and Community
              Lee, *Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America*

February 25:  Asian American Movements and Activism
              Boggs, *Living for Change: An Autobiography*

March 4:  Making Homes in the Heartland
          Yang, *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*

March 11:  Japanese America During World War II
           Houston, *Farewell to Manzanar*

March 18:  Filipino American History and Hawai‘i
          Monroyo, *Tomorrow’s Memories: A Diary, 1924-1928*

March 25:  SPRING BREAK – No Class

April 1:  Pacific Migrations and Diaspora
          Badahur, *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture*

April 8:  100% Hapa: Exploring Multiracial America
          Chai, *Hapa Girl: A Memoir*
          Nakashima, “Approaches to Multiraciality”

April 15:  Eating Asian America
          Lee, *Fortune Cookie Chronicles*
          Ku, *Dubious Gastronomy: The Cultural Politics of Eating Asian in the USA*
          “Introduction”

April 22:  Politics of Belonging and Transnational Adoption
          Hopgood, *Lucky Girl: A Memoir*

April 29:  On Comedy, Public Celebrity and Fame
          Kaling, *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)*

May 6:  Last Day of Class