Fall 2023
ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
ASIA 2300 – CRN 16449

Instructor: Pratyusha Basu
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Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and Director, Asian Studies Program
Email: pbasu@utep.edu
Delivery Method: Online asynchronous class (100% online)
Office Hours: By appointment, online via Zoom

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will enable a diverse and complex understanding of American social and cultural formations through engagement with Asian origin and Asian descent groups. The major portion of this course will introduce how Asian national origins become an important aspect of American histories, identities, and experiences – focusing on both the role of immigration from Asia in the construction of American culture, and how Asian American experiences provide insights into social issues and inequalities in the U.S. The course will also consider how distinctive cultural practices became part of the U.S. social fabric through Asian Americans, including religions, food, and popular culture. This course is significant in a moment when racial and ethnic hierarchies are being debated in U.S. domestic politics, and as U.S. foreign policy continues to focus on Asian economies. It therefore seeks to provide conceptual perspectives that enable an understanding of why and how Asia is part of social and cultural identifications within the U.S.

Course Objectives:
• Introduce various places, identities, and practices that comprise Asian Americans;
• Situate Asian Americans in immigration and racial/ethnic policies in the U.S.;
• Inspire the ability to think of American society, culture, and politics with critical empathy;
• Improve verbal and written comprehension and communication skills useful for future academic and professional development.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
This course is being offered in an online asynchronous format via Blackboard, and is organized around recorded lectures on class topics. These lectures have been formulated based on academic books and journal articles, and these materials will also be available. It is expected that students will either engage with the lectures or the readings, or both, and then complete the weekly assignments and discussion forums.

This course expects that students will take an active role in their own learning, and write weekly assignments that reflect their comprehensive engagement and thoughtful reflection on the lectures and readings. Everyone should feel comfortable completing weekly assignments and
discussion forums, and let me know of any aspects of the course materials and interactions that do not meet expectations.

All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, and it is expected that they will be submitted by the due date. Late submission of assignments may result in the assignment not being graded, so please let me know if you have any issues with adhering to due dates. Finally, all assignments have to be submitted in order to obtain a final grade for this class.

**Weekly Assignments (60%)**
Each week, students will be expected to complete 1-2 short essays based on the lectures and readings for the week. Each essay should be around 250-500 words in length, around 1-2 pages. Students are expected to go through the lectures or readings in their entirety, and submit assignments by their due dates. The aim here is to ensure that students regularly follow and engage with course materials in a timely fashion.

**Discussion Forums (20%)**
Discussion questions will be provided online through the Blackboard Discussion Forum which will be an additional space for further comments and reflections on class materials. Each week, 1-2 discussion questions will be provided each week, and students should respond to each in around 100 words, with at least 2 responses to other students.

**Final Assignment (20%)**
The final assignment will be an overview of class themes, and consist of 1-2 essay questions which have to be addressed based on class lectures and readings in around 250-500 words each (around 1-2 pages each). The final assignment will be due during final exams week.

Additional information on weekly assignments, presentations, and final assignment will be provided on Blackboard.

**Grading scale (based on weighted total percentage points)**

- A = 90% plus
- B = 80-89.9%
- C = 70-79.9%
- D = 60-69.9%
- F = 59.9% and below

**Note:** Grading scale may vary depending on discretion of the instructor. All assignments have to be completed to receive a grade for this class.
COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Course readings
All course readings (book chapters, journal articles, and videos) will be available via Blackboard. There is no required textbook for the course.

Please contact Dr. Basu in case of any difficulties in obtaining access to readings.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1, Oct 23-27:</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Discussion of Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Lecture 2: Introduction to Asian Americans</td>
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<td>Lecture 3: Concepts: panethnicity, model minority</td>
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<td>Week 2, Oct 30-Nov 3:</td>
<td>Lecture: 4: Early Histories of Asians in America</td>
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<td>From China</td>
<td>Lecture 5: Chinese immigration histories and experiences</td>
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<td>additional: Chinese contributions to American food</td>
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<td>Week 3, Nov 6-10:</td>
<td>Lecture 6: Japanese immigration histories</td>
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<td>From Japan and Korea</td>
<td>Lecture 7: Korean immigration histories</td>
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<td>additional: Hawaii</td>
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<td>additional: Korean adoptees</td>
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<td>Week 4, Nov 13-17:</td>
<td>Lecture 8: South Asian immigration histories</td>
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<td>From South Asia and West Asia</td>
<td>Lecture 9: Muslim Americans</td>
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<td>additional: South Asian religions</td>
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<td>Week 5, Nov 20-24:</td>
<td>Lecture 10: Filipino immigration histories</td>
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<td>From Southeast Asia</td>
<td>Lecture 11: Refugees of the Vietnam War</td>
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<td>additional: Hmong communities</td>
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<td>Week 6, Nov 27-Dec 1:</td>
<td>Lecture 12: Political Participation</td>
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<td>(Thanksgiving week)</td>
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<td>Week 7, Dec 4-8:</td>
<td>Lecture 13: Asian Americans in Popular Culture</td>
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<td>Week 8, Dec 11-15:</td>
<td>Final assignment</td>
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SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Note that for technological issues, the Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you. However, you can also let me know in case this interferes with your ability to attend class, or submit assignments in a timely fashion.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

- **Office Hours:** Office hours for the class will be conducted online via Zoom. Students will preferably first contact the instructor via email and then set up a specific meeting time as required.

- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course name in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name.

- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, you can also post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students’ questions if you have a helpful response.

- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

NETIQUETTE
As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of
body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers in class and on the discussion boards
- Other activities that may be indicated

Since these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (assignments, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

**LATE WORK AND COURSE DROP POLICY**

Please let me know if you are not able to submit assignments on time, and valid excuses will be considered, including health concerns related to yourself or your family members, and any technical difficulties. I will not drop you from the course, but in case you are missing a substantial amount of assignments, please let me know if you would like to be dropped from the course.
INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY
Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY
The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY
Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action.

CLASS RECORDINGS
The availability of course recordings is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE
Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.
COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS
All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COURSE RESOURCES
UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources
- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources
- **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC)**: Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

Individual Resources
- **Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- **UTEP Food Pantry**: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.