

Asian Diaspora in Latin America
LABS 4301, HIST 3390, WS 3390

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Course description and objectives.

This course will examine the contributions made by Asian immigrants and their descendants to the economy and culture of Latin America. Readings and activities are planned to develop a critical understanding of the centuries-long presence of Asians in the region, framing this knowledge within larger intellectual inquiries regarding race, gender, sexuality, citizenship, ethnicity and class. Such study requires an overview of imperialist expansions and colonization processes shaping the experience of Asian immigrants in the American Continent. Since this topic is vast, we will cover selected areas and periods offering us the opportunity to compare several historical developments in Latin America and appreciate similitudes and heterogeneity.

Objectives

- To assess the importance of the Asian Diaspora in the construction of hybrid transnational communities in Latin America.
- To analyze critically gender and race relations in the context of the cultural, and political development of Latin America.
- To identify the relation of history with other disciplines; and
- To learn in a cooperative environment the *relationship* and *significance* of historical persons, events, ideas, and processes affecting our present.

At the end of this course I would like my students to be able to:

- Think critically about interlocking relations of power, including gender, race, and economic class.
- Evaluate past events and social processes as factors that shape our present.
- Reflect on their own academic responsibility and potential to affect positively their communities. , E
- Develop strategies to improve independent study skills.

Required Textbooks:

Buy the first book in this list. The other books are available through our UTEP library or Blackboard links.

1. *Seijas, Tatiana. *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico: From Chinos to Indians* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).
2. Look Lai, Walton and Chee-Beng Tan. *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Brill, 2010).
3. Said, Edward. *Orientalism* (Vintage, 2014).
- 4.

Required Articles:All articles listed in our schedule are available through our UTEP electronic data base. You can also find the links in Blackboard.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is crucial in a discussion-centered course such as this. Each student is allowed 1 absence without penalty; each subsequent absence will lower the final grade by 5%. More than FOUR absences will automatically result in a failing grade. Two times late will be equivalent to one absence. If you leave the classroom for a period longer than

10 minutes, your attendance points will also decrease. Unauthorized use of cell phones or computers will result in deductions from your attendance and participation points. You must consult your Blackboard records to make sure I have accurate attendance records. You have only 36 hours to inform me of any mistake in your attendance record. Quizzes and team work cannot be made up when you are absent.

Office appointments: Please, e-mail me or call me to cancel your appointment if you are not able to meet with me. If you miss an appointment participation points will be deducted from your final grade.

Class discussions. They are designed to encourage the class to express opinions, observations, share experiences, and ask questions. We should use this time to clarify understanding of concepts encountered in course materials.

Disabled student resources. A variety of services are available to students who need special accommodation for students to succeed and enjoy this class. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for this course.

Group activities will be arranged periodically to allow students to become acquainted with other class members and their ideas. They also provide opportunities for students to see the application of the principles introduced in course materials. The frequency and quality of the group activities largely depends on the cooperation of group members.

Grades will be determined by students' performance in the following areas:

Grading Policy:

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| • One paper | 15% |
| • Presentations | 10% |
| • Journals | 55% |
| • Chicago/Turabian citation style quiz | 3% |
| • Rapid evaluations | 7% |
| • Participation in class | 10% |

Final grades will be based on the total number of points earned in the course.

Grade Scale

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 -79%

F = 69 and under

It is highly recommended to visit Blackboard periodically. You can find your grades, post messages, form discussion groups and be reminded of tests, assignments, events, etc.

Late work policy:

- **All assignments are due on or before the assigned dates.**
- **There will be no make ups for class participation or quizzes in class.**
- **Papers placed underneath the instructor's office door or in her box won't be accepted if they are late.**

It is important that you understand the reasons why you receive the grade you do. I encourage students to discuss the graded papers, quizzes or exams with me, but such conversation can only take place 24-hours after students receive their graded paper or quizzes.

Students' responsibilities

- Students will complete all procedures required to drop the course if they desire to obtain a "W."
- Students will be active in their own learning process, obtain knowledge on their own, and share their knowledge with their peers and teacher.
- Students are expected to read assigned material prior to class. They should be prepared to answer questions related to material in the text and may be called on to do so. Students should also be prepared to ask questions about issues of interest or for clarifications of concepts during class.
- Students are expected to show respect for the instructor, guests and one another regardless of opinion, cultural values and other group differences.

- Communications with your peers and your professor must follow the protocol you will read at <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor> Participation points will be deducted when your messages do not follow the conventions listed in the site referenced.
- When requested to meet with your professor in her office, you must schedule a meeting or meet her during office hours during the next 36 hours. Failing to meet with her in this case will result in a deduction of your participation points.
- Students should give one another equal opportunity to express opinions, experiences and ideas.
- All students should be supportive of a cooperative learning environment in the classrooms.
- Students are encouraged to attend all sessions, arrive on time, and remain in attendance until each session is formally ended. When a test is scheduled, students will not be allowed to leave the classroom before finishing the test, with the exception of documented medical problems. A significant proportion of the learning process originates from interaction with others and in the give-and-take discussions relevant to readings. Because our class represents a system of learning, your presence or absence affects and enables the learning process of every other class member.
- Students will not use cell phones or other electronic devices during our class sessions, or exams at all. Students must turn all electronic devices. In cases of emergency, students must notify the instructor of the need to answer a call and will be allowed to exit the classroom for a brief period of time to take the call. Students will not be allowed to use computer during class unless they have a documented need to use a laptop. In that case, the computer will be used exclusively to take notes and the student must use designated places for computer users.
- **Your classmates and your syllabus will be a good source to inquire on what you missed in class when absent.**
- **5% of your grade will be discounted from your final grade for each absence, after the first absence. For example, if your final grade is 100, but you missed four sessions your final grade will be 85. FOUR classes is the maximum amount of sessions you may miss. If you miss class five times you will fail this course.**

Participation (10%)

Your professor as well as the other members of your team will grade your participation. Evaluation will be based on punctuality, attendance, preparedness, number and quality of interventions, willingness to take notes for yourself and for your team, and collaboration with your team and the rest of the class to attain our learning goals. When you are absent you are missing information and making it more difficult for you to do well in the class and your participation points decrease. I believe that all of us need to contribute to the educational growth of the whole group. These are some of the basic points regarding participation followed by a basic description of participation points.

Follow these rules for an enjoyable class:

1. **Listen actively** -- respect others when they are talking.
2. Avoid pin-pong conversations or verbal duels.
3. Other students will be waiting for their **turn** to speak and we will respect the order.
4. Once you have intervened, allow the next student to express her/his opinion, even if that opinion is not directly related to your intervention.
5. Practice **timely attendance**.
6. Do not be afraid to **challenge respectfully one another** by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas.
7. **Participate to the fullest of your ability** -- community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
8. **The goal is not to agree** -- it is about hearing and exploring divergent perspectives.
9. **Take charge of your education**. Read carefully, use your dictionary as needed, look for more information if topics are difficult to grasp.

One paper (15%):

You will present one paper with an extension of 10 pages. It will consist of an exploration of a topic using at least three of the readings listed in our course, and five journal articles or academic books not included in our reading list. Compliance with all the requirements for these specific assignments does not guarantee an A in this course for the entire course. Undergraduate students who fulfill the following conditions are exempted from submission of a final paper: students will have 1) 90 % of their journal entries timely submitted with a score of 8 or higher in each of their original

entries, (they must be written using their own words); 2) a perfect attendance record; 3) a perfect score in their presentation(s) with a noticeable participation in all phases of the course; 4) all quizzes with a passing grade; 4) a high level of meaningful participation, and, 5) encourage other students to participate. Plagiarism will disqualify students to be exempted from final paper. Graduate students will not receive a final paper exemption and the extension will be 15-20 pages.

This paper is mandatory to pass this course for graduate students and students who failed to submit one or more journals in a timely fashion, regardless of the extra credit points they may accumulate. Papers must be submitted by the deadline through Blackboard.

Presentations (10%):

Your team make a formal presentation using multimedia technology to address the main topics of this course in two sections. Your team, thus, will select one article or chapter from the syllabus not previously presented. The lecture section will cover only five minutes, a maximum of three slides with 3-5 summarized ideas in each slide, in a bulleted list. You can one citation per slide, maximum three lines. The text must be readable from a distance of 30 feet when projected onto the screen. Reading a text during presentation is not acceptable. The second section consists of an activity designed to review the main concepts of the chapter or article. The activity must include materials, and encourage students to learn as a team, as well as use their senses, beyond memorization or discussing a question. Each activity must be different from other activities designed by other teams. You can submit your lesson plan early to make sure your activity will be approved.. Graduate students will make one solo presentation and a second one with a team. Students will submit a lesson plan one week before their presentation, providing the names of the members of the team, information on the media used, questions explored, activities, and objectives. A power point presentation must be submitted and uploaded in Blackboard at least 24 hours before the class takes place. Your professor will submit comments. When necessary, corrections must be done before presenting.

Journal (55%):

This section of the course includes two entries per week through your Blackboard journals section. During the first three weeks, students will submit an additional printed copy of their journals. They will be exchanged with other students for review and feedback. Journal entries consist of a summary of each article or chapter scheduled to read. Each summary will have a minimum extension of twenty sentences. In addition, each entry will include a one-paragraph critical comment on the readings assigned for class with a minimum of 10 sentences. This exercise will prepare you for our discussions in class. Occasionally, I will submit a list of questions to answer in lieu of your summary. You must use Chicago style to cite quotations, pages, and also your works-cited section. Journals carry the largest weight of your grade; therefore, students should take great care and pride when writing them. Missing more than four assignments will result in a failing grade. Expectations are:

1. A clear thesis and logical organization.
2. Write concisely.
3. Avoid passive constructions. Tell who is performing the action you describe.
4. Quotations must be used sparingly.
5. Strive for gender-neutral phrasing.
6. Use carefully the term "race." Remember, race is a social construction. Avoid derogatory language.
7. Incorporate new terms learned but use your own words, demonstrate that you understood the text.
8. Students will accrue 0 points when they use the patchwork method to write a journal entry. Patchwork means to take a fragment of the text and paste with other phrases in one sentence. Research the term.
9. Ask questions in your comment section if you feel you are not understanding a concept.

Notice that our readings are not in strict chronological order, and that some topics are repeated. This apparent repetition should elicit analytical comparisons in terms of primary sources and scholarly interpretations. Keep in mind that historical processes or intellectual processes are not linear; therefore, you will exercise your ability to establish relationships among periods, events, and issues.

Quiz on Chicago Style (3%):

As a student of history you must learn to use the Chicago /Turabian citation style when writing your sources and your bibliography. Students will have an in class quiz.

Rapid evaluations (7%):

Periodically, you will answer a set of questions in class related to the material previously presented to you during lecture or included in your mandatory readings. There are no make-ups for these quizzes. When absent, students will not earn points for missed evaluations.

Graduate Students Coursework:

Graduate students will submit two extended journal entries per week, 2 – 4 pages (versus 1 – 2 pages submitted by undergraduate students). Graduate students will submit a final paper with an extension of 18 -20 pages (versus 10 pages submitted by undergraduate students). It consists of an exploration of a topic using at least three of the readings listed in our course, plus their selection of five journal articles or monographs not included in our reading list.

Graduate students must design a lesson plan and teach a class, individually.

Extra points: Students may earn a maximum of 8 extra points when attending special events. However, when more than five journal entries are missed, or if your final paper earns a grade lower than 70, extra points will not be added.

Schedule:

This schedule is for your mandatory readings mainly. Our readings are not following a strict chronological order in the treatment of topics. All texts in this schedule must be included in the submission of journals. Students must submit an entry per chapter or article. Students must bring a printed copy of each chapter or article to class as scheduled. Students must read the texts before their discussion in class. I will provide other texts through Blackboard or will give you hand-outs. Check your Blackboard Calendar for specific datelines. Several guests' presentations, movies and group discussions, among other events will take place during the term and the topics will be integrated into your exams.

Week 1 Introduction. Human Geography and the representations of gender and race (Journal 1)

Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People. A Media Education Foundation production ; directed by Sut Jhally; produced by Jeremy Earp. UTEP library.

Mickey Mouse Monopoly: Disney, childhood & corporate power. A Media Education Foundation production; directed by Sut Jhally ; produced by Jeremy Earp. UTEP library (Your journal entry should address the representation of Asians).

Make sure you have ordered *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico* by this week so you can submit your journal entries.

Week 2 (Journal 2)

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. Section I.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. Section II.

Week 3 (Journals 3 and 4)

Introduction and “Sinifying New Spain...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 1 – 34.

“Asian Diasporas and Tropical Migration...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 35-64.

Week 4 (Journals 5 and 6)

“Indispensable Enemy...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 65-102.

“The Chinese of Central America...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 103-128.

Week 5 (Journals 7 and 8)

“Report: Archives of Biography...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 129-142.

“Tusans...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp.143-184.

Week 6 (Journals 9 and 10)

Old Migrants (Suriname)...” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 185-210.

“The Revitalization of Havana’s Chinatown” In *The Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pp. 211-236.

Week 7 (Journals 11 and 12)

Introduction and “Catarina de San Juan...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 1-31.

“The Diversity and Reach...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 32-72.

Week 8 (Journals 13 and 14)

“The Rise and Fall...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 73-108.

“Chinos in Mexico City...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 109-142.

Week 9 (Journals 15 and 16)

“Joining the Republic of Indians...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 143-174

“The Church on Chino Slaves ...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 175-211.

Week 10 (Journals 17 and 18)

“The End of Chino Slavery ...” *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico*. Pp. 212-250

Alston, Lee J., Shannan Mattiace, and Tomas Nonnenmacher. 2009. “Coercion, Culture, and Contracts: Labor and Debt on Henequen Haciendas in Yucatán, Mexico, 1870-1915”. *The Journal of Economic History* 69 (1). Cambridge University Press: 104–37. <http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/40263922..>

Week 11 (Journals 19 and 20)

Chew, Selfa. “Mexicanidades de la Diáspora Asiática: Considerations of Gender, Race and Class.” *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of MALCS*. Vol. 14, Issue 1, Fall 2014.

Chew, Selfa. “Re-Imagining Collectivities: The Mexican Japanese During World War II”, National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Proceedings, San Jose State University Scholarworks, 2008. <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=naccs>

Week 12 (Journals 21 and 22)

Jozami, Gladys. 1996. “The Manifestation of Islam in Argentina”. *The Americas* 53 (1). Cambridge University Press: 67–85. doi:10.2307/1007474.

Lesser, Jeffrey. 1996. “(re) Creating Ethnicity: Middle Eastern Immigration to Brazil”. *The Americas* 53 (1). Cambridge University Press: 45–65. doi:10.2307/1007473

Week 13 (Journals 23 and 24)

Klich, Ignacio. 1996. “The Chimera of Palestinian Resettlement in Argentina in the Early Aftermath of the First Arab-Israeli War and Other Similarly Fantastic Notions”. *The Americas* 53 (1). Cambridge University Press: 15–43. doi:10.2307/1007472.

Almeida, Mónica. 1996. “Phoenicians of the Pacific: Lebanese and Other Middle Easterners in Ecuador”. *The Americas* 53 (1). Cambridge University Press: 87–111. doi:10.2307/100747

Week 14 (Journals 25 and 26)

Olsen, Dale A.. 1983. “The Social Determinants of Japanese Musical Life in Peru and Brazil”. *Ethnomusicology* 27 (1). University of Illinois Press: 49–70. doi:10.2307/850882.

Klich, Ignacio, and Jeffrey Lesser. 1996. “Introduction: “turco” Immigrants in Latin America”. *The Americas* 53 (1). Cambridge University Press: 1–14. doi:10.2307/1007471.

Week 15 (Journals 27 and 28)

Each journal entry for this week must include a summary of an academic article you plan to include in your final paper, and your or comments. All students must submit two entries.

Final exam date: Submission of your final paper. Mandatory for graduate students and undergraduate students not

officially exempted. This syllabus is subject to changes.