

HIST240: Immigrant America: A Transnational History (AH)
Fall 2018
Professor Shiho Imai

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00 or by appointment (Satterlee 321-A)
E-mail: imais@postsdam.edu

This course takes a cross-cultural approach to American history with a focus on the movement of people, goods, and ideas across national boundaries. With special attention to America's evolving relationship with Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, it will explore 1) the process of racial exclusion and inclusion and 2) the ways in which immigrants reconciled their diasporic affiliation, while staking a claim to citizenship. Additional questions to be considered: In what ways did they contribute to the shaping of America's national identity? How has American diversity influenced its place in the wider world? Course materials include but are not limited to laws, art, and oral history.

Intended Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Analyze and synthesize multiple sources relating to historical events.
2. Evaluate multiple historical interpretations and reach reasoned evaluative judgments.
3. Demonstrate an ability to present effective written historical arguments in proper form.
4. Demonstrate an ability to employ the cognitive skills and content knowledge necessary for graduate education and for professional success in secondary education and beyond.
5. Demonstrate achievement of the above in contexts across time, geography, and culture.

Required Readings:

- Henry Kiyama, *Four Immigrants Manga* (New York: Perseus, 1999)
- Paule Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brownstones* (New York: Dover, 2009)

Class Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (including essay quizzes): 20%

Midterm Exam I & II: 20% & 20%

Writing Assignment: 20%

Final Exam (to be held during exam week): 20%

Writing Assignment (5-6 pages) involves a comparative analysis of the assigned readings and lectures. See below for detailed instructions. No e-mail submission will be accepted without prior approval. In fairness to other students in the class, late papers will be bumped 0.5 points for each day they are overdue (for example, a 16.0 paper due on Thursday would become 15.5 by Friday and 15.0 by Saturday). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The writing assignment and all exams must be completed to pass the course.

Attendance and Participation will be determined in part by **THREE essay quizzes** and student performance in group activities and presentation. No more than 3 absences will be permitted. The In-class **Midterm Exams** will consist of ONE essay question and short identification questions. A study guide will be made available two weeks in advance. The **Final Exam** will consist of TWO essays.

The instructor reserves the right to revise the course schedule at any time during the semester. Please pay attention to any changes announced during class. Substantial penalty will be applied to the final grade for class disturbance, including texting.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

August 28: What is Immigration History? Why does it matter?

August 30: Uprooted or Transplanted?

Week 2: From a Different Shore

September 4: The Spanish-American War

September 6: “Nursing” the Philippines

Week 3: Whistleblowers and Social Reformers

September 11: A Second Look @ Boss Politics

September 13: **DISCUSSION (QUIZ)**: Kiyama, *Four Immigrants Manga*

Week 4: A Nation at War

September 18: The Sacco and Vanzetti Trial and the Red Scare

September 20: **CLASS CANCELLED**

Week 5: Closing the Gates

September 25: The Changing Face of Immigration Law

September 27: **MIDTERM EXAM I**

Week 6: The Great Depression as a Turning Point

October 2: Film: *Picture Bride* (1995)

October 4: Making a New Deal

Week 7: New York: A Case Study

October 9: RECESS – NO CLASS

October 11: **DISCUSSION (QUIZ)**: Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brownstones*
(*Read pp. 1-159)

Week 8: Southwest Borderlands: A Case Study

October 16: Towards Restriction

October 18: The Zoot Suit Riots

Week 9: Citizen 13660

October 23: Japanese American Internment

October 25: **MIDTERM EXAM II**

Week 10: Cold War Orientalism

October 30: The Making of a Model Minority

November 1: The Politics of Ethnic Beauty Contests

Week 11: Civil Rights

November 6: Kenya in the United States

November 8: Student Presentation (Details TBA) ***PAPER DUE**

Week 12 (November 13 & 15): Film: *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962)

Week 13 (November 20 & 22): **Take-Home Essay** (See next page) – NO CLASS

Week 14: Refugees and Asylees

November 27: The Vietnam War

November 29: Immigration Act of 1965

Week 15: Multicultural America

December 4: Desis in the Big Apple

December 6: The L.A. Race Riots

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 13 @12:30-2:30

Essay Quizzes:

For the quiz, you are expected to complete a short essay (20 minutes) based on the reading, lectures, and questions below. It is the equivalent of a closed book exam.

QUIZ #1: Henry Kiyama, *The Four Immigrants Manga*

- 1) How does it illustrate the life of an immigrant before and after the Great Earthquake?
- 2) In what ways does the artist portray Japan, its fellow citizens, and other ethnic groups?
- 3) Do the characters assimilate into American culture, resist Americanization, or both?
- 4) How do their lives change by the end of the book? What remains constant?

QUIZ #2: Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brownstones* (*Read pp. 1-159)

- 1) In what ways are the children like their parents? How are they different?
- 2) Describe the relationship between Selina's family, neighbors, and fellow Bajans.
- 3) Discuss the role of the Second World War in the lives of the characters.
- 4) What is the source of Selina's identity? Race, gender, ethnicity, or citizenship?

Take-Home Essay:

Read, summarize, and discuss the following:

Adam Steinberg, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Food: Using Food to Teach History," *Public Historian* 34: 2 (Spring 2012): 79-89. *Available on JSTOR

Possible topics of discussion include: What other foods and/or historical questions would you address through the Tenement Museum's food tour? Why and how?

Writing Assignment:

Choose ONE topic from below. Summarize the article. Next, support, refute, or modify the article's theses based on the lectures, course materials, and class discussions. The

essay should be 5-pages long with an introduction and a conclusion. A good paper will have an argument and use as many examples as possible from the course to illustrate your main points. It should be stapled and paginated with the last page ¾ written. Grading criteria include: use of reading and lectures; analytical skills; originality; and clarity.

The essay should be typed, double-spaced, 12 fonts, and footnoted – which would look like this.¹ Footnotes for the second entry on should have the author’s last name, shortened article title, and page number.² Endnotes will also be accepted. No outside research.

1) RACE:

Natalia Molina, “In a Race All Their Own: The Quest to Make Mexicans Ineligible for U.S. Citizenship,” *Pacific Historical Review* 79: 2 (May, 2010): 167-201.

2) GENDER:

Lori A. Flores, “An Unladylike Strike Fashionably Clothed: Mexican and Anglo Women Garment Workers Against Tex-Son, 1959-1963,” *Pacific Historical Review* 78: 3 (August, 2009): 367-402.

3) MUSEUMS:

Ginetta E. B. Candelario, “‘Black Behind the Ears’ – and Up Front Too? Dominicans in *The Black Mosaic*,” *The Public Historian* 23: 4 (2001): 55-72.

4) MEDICINE:

Alan M. Kraut, “Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and American Efficiency, 1890-1924,” *Social Science History* 12: 4 (Winter, 1988): 377-394.

*All articles are available on JSTOR, accessible through the Crumb Library website.

The Writers’ Block offers free personal assistance on writing. Book your session by visiting Carson 105, calling (315) 267-3059, or emailing wblock@potsgdam.edu.

Student Support:

- The Counseling Center: (315) 267-2330
- Title IX Coordinator: (315) 267-2516
- Bias Incident Reporting: <http://www.potsgdam.edu/about/diversity/biasincident>
- Center for Diversity: (315) 267-2184
- University Police: (315) 267-2222
- Student Conduct and Community Standards:
<http://www.potsgdam.edu/studentlife/studentconduct/codeofconduct>
- Reachout (24-hour crisis hotline): (315) 265-2422
- Renewal House (for victims of domestic violence): (315) 379-9845 (24-hour crisis hotline) or Renewalhouse_campus@Verizon.net

¹ Natalia Molina, “In a Race All Their Own: The Quest to Make Mexicans Ineligible for U.S. Citizenship,” *Pacific Historical Review* 79: 2 (May, 2010), 167.

² Molina, “In a Race All Their Own,” 201.