

**ENGL/WGST 474-900: STUDIES IN WOMEN WRITERS  
ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S LITERATURE AND MEDIA  
FALL 2019  
DR. VANITA REDDY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this upper division course, we will examine a range of literary and cultural production by Asian American women produced after the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act, which marked a significant rise in the numbers of Asians immigrating to the U.S. We will explore the ways in which these artists' various cultural forms--novels, short stories, poetry, memoirs, film, performance, and digital media--serve as sites for the formation of subjectivities and communities within and beyond the national borders of "America." This course will challenge you to think critically about categories that might otherwise be taken for granted (such as race, gender, nationality, sexuality, and citizenship) and to try to see the world from the perspective of someone who is located in a different body, situation, place than perhaps your own.

Imperial wars abroad, military interventions, immigration laws, gendered labor migrations, and the global restructuring of capital all have served to make invisible if not erase the histories of Asian migrant and Asian American women. We will think about these histories through Asian American women's writing (broadly conceived), as it constructs and disrupts national identity--even how it points to the limits of nation-centered models of identity and community formation--by revealing its multiple gaps and fissures.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- To generate a wiki or written project on a topic that interests you from this course that shows your larger contribution to "Asian American Women's Writing"
- To demonstrate how the category "Asian American women" is part of larger social formations, such as race, sexuality, migration, and imperialism in group presentations, response papers, and in the final project
- To demonstrate your ability to conduct outside research in the final paper/wiki project.
- To assess in writing and in class discussions how historical contexts affect the meanings of "Asian American women"
- To look up and define, if and when asked, new words and terms that come up in class and online discussions
- To write a bibliographic annotation
- To write a claim/insight

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Fae Ng, *Bone* (1993)

Shailja Patel, *Migritude* (2010)

Najla Said, *Looking for Palestine* (2015)

**MEDIA (to be screened via Media Matrix streaming via ecampus; all films with a \* have also been placed on Media Reserve at Evans Library. All other films are accessible through the university library, via Kanopy):**

\*Deborah Gee, *Slaying the Dragon* (1988)

\*Elaine Kim, *Slaying the Dragon, Reloaded* (2010)

\*Mira Nair, *Mississippi Masala* (1991)

Deann Borshay Liem, *First Person Plural* (2000)

\*Gina Kim, *Never Forever* (2007)

Sut Jhally, *Edward Said on Orientalism* (1998)

## WEBSITES

Miriam Ghani and Chitra Ganesh, *A Warm Database* (2004)

<http://www.turbulence.org/Works/seethedisappeared/index.html>

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSE READING WILL BE POSTED ON E-CAMPUS.**

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Class Participation (attendance is not weighted; see below for details on participation scoring and class attendance policy) (20%)

Online Discussion Boards (10%)

In-class Writing (10%)

Claim assignment (5%)

3 Position Papers: (15%)

Final Essay Exam: (40%)

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

### CLASS PARTICIPATION (20%)

In-class Small Group Discussion (10%)

In-class Large Group Discussion (10%)

## WRITING

Online Discussion Boards (10%)

\*\*\*Please note that the below dates indicate the day a reading/set of readings is DUE. This schedule IS subject to change WITH notice\*\*\*

## WEEK 1

M AUG. 26

Course Introduction and Overview; begin going over syllabus

## **In-Class practice claim assignment**

W AUG. 28

In-class screening: Deborah Gee, *Slaying the Dragon* (1988)

Finish going over syllabus

### **WEEK 2**

M SEPT. 2

Film: Elaine Kim, *Slaying the Dragon, Reloaded* (2010) (Media Matrix) (to be screened out of class)

W SEPT. 4

Reading: Begin Fae Ng's *Bone* (Ch. 1-9)

**Claim assignment DUE**

### **WEEK 3**

M SEPT. 9

Reading: Finish *Bone* (Ch. 10-14)

**In-class writing exercise**

W SEPT. 11

Reading: erin nihn, selections from *Ingratitude: The Debt-Bound Daughter in Asian-American Literature* (e-campus)

### **WEEK 4**

M SEPT. 16

Finish discussing *Bone*

**On-line Discussion Board Post DUE**

W SEPT. 18

Begin screening *First Person Plural*, Dir. Deann Borshay Liem; finish screening via TAMU library streaming link

### **WEEK 5**

M SEPT. 23

Film: discuss *First Person Plural* (2000), Dir. Deann Borshay Liem

**Position Paper #1 DUE**

W SEPT. 25

Reading: Excerpts from Eng, "The Language of Kinship: Transnational Adoption and Two Mothers" (ecampus)

### **WEEK 6**

M SEPT. 30

Finish discussing Borshay-Liem and Eng

**On-line Discussion Board Post DUE**

W OCT. 2

Reading: Jhumpa Lahiri, “Sexy”; “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine” (ecampus)

**WEEK 7**

M OCT. 7

Film: *Never Forever*, dir. Gina Kim (Media Matrix)

**In-class writing exercise**

W OCT. 9

Finish discussing *Never Forever*

**WEEK 8**

M OCT. 14

Film: *Mississippi Masala*, Dir. Mira Nair (Media Matrix)

W OCT. 16

Discuss *Mississippi Masala*

**Online discussion board DUE**

**WEEK 9:**

M OCT. 21

Reading: Excerpts from Reddy, “Afro-Asian Intimacies” (e-campus)

**Position Paper #2 DUE**

W OCT. 23

Finish Discussing Nair and Reddy

**WEEK 10**

M OCT. 28

Reading: Shailja Patel, *Migritude*

**On-line Discussion Board Post DUE**

W OCT. 30

Finish discussing *Migritude*

**WEEK 11**

M NOV. 4

Reading: Najla Said, *Looking for Palestine* (pp. 1-78)

W NOV. 6

Reading: Cont. reading Said, *Looking for Palestine* (pp. 79-143); **Guest Lecturer: Seon-Myung Yoo**

**In-class writing exercise**

(PROFESSOR AT AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE)

## WEEK 12

M NOV. 11

Finish reading *Looking for Palestine*

**Position Paper #3 DUE**

NO CLASS

(PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE)

W NOV. 13

In-Class screening of *On Orientalism*; **Guest Lecturer: Zhuwen Zhang**

(PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE)

## WEEK 13

M NOV. 18

Discuss *Looking for Palestine* and *Orientalism*

**Online Discussion Board DUE**

W NOV. 20

Reading: Chitra Ganesh and Mariam Ghani, *A Warm Database* (2004)

<http://www.turbulence.org/Works/seethedisappeared/index.html>

## WEEK 14

M NOV. 25

Reading: Mohanty, "U.S. Empire" (ecampus); go over final essay exam

Finish discussing Warm Database; discuss Mohanty

W NOV. 27

No class; reading day

## WEEK 15

M DEC. 2

No Class; Redefined Day

**Dr. Reddy will be holding office hours from 4:10-5:25 in LAAH 531.**

W DEC. 4

**Final Essay Exam Due**

In-class mandatory student evaluations