Course Instructor
Jane Naomi Iwamura
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Course Description
In REL 336, we will engage in an interdisciplinary analysis of the religions traditions, institutions, and experiences of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. We will look at Asian American spiritual cultures in socio-historical context and examine not only the religious wellsprings from which Asian Americans draw, but also how their beliefs and practices creatively address a changing environment.

As an in-depth examination of Asian American religious life, REL 336 seeks to expand your understanding of racial and religious diversity in U.S. society through careful historical research and social analysis. The course fulfills the Diversity Requirement by focusing on several different forms of difference: race/ethnicity, and to a lesser extent, gender, class, nationality, generation, and sexual orientation. Students will learn about race and racism and its relation to Asian American religious identity in several ways, including an examination of how racism, cultural imperialism, and orientalism affect Asian American religious identity; how Asian American religions test and extend the limits of religious freedom/expresssion; and the new challenges that Asian American religious subjects encounter in a Post-65, multi-cultural, consumer-oriented society.

Texts & Materials
- Course Reader (available @ the Magic Machine, University Village)
- Pyong Gap Min and Jung Ha Kim, Religions in Asian America: building Faith Communities
- Jane Naomi Iwamura and Paul Spickard, Ed., Revealing the Sacred in Asian and Pacific America
- Mary Paik Lee, Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America
- Khyati Joshi, New Roots in America's Sacred Ground: Religion Race, and Ethnicity in Indian America
- Ronald Takaki, Strangers from a Different Shore
- John R. Hinnells, Ed., A New Handbook of Living Religions
Requirements

- **Attendance and Participation** 10%
  In class, Technology sections, Technology workshops, and Field trips
  You are allowed two excused absences from lecture and one excused absence from section. (Note: Coming to class/section late will adversely affect your grade.)
  You will also be required to attend the class field trip. Per lecture, there is information and material that you will be responsible for that is not found in the assigned readings. Per section, you will be graded for assignments that will be handed out during that meeting. In addition, the material and assignments for both lecture and section are closely linked to one another. Hence, it is to your benefit to attend all lectures and sections.

- **Weekly Reflection and Contribution > On-line Discussion** 20%
  You are responsible for contributing to an on-line discussion of the week's readings at least ten times throughout the semester. Your post must be...
  - At least 500 words
  - Address the primary readings for the week
  - Respond to the posts already up for that week
  - Include at least one question you have about the readings
  All reflections are due 10:00 am on Tuesday.

- **Midterm Timeline Project** 30%
  In order to compare the religious histories of the various Asian ethno-religious groups we have been studying, you will construct annotated timelines for three of the following groups.
  - Korean Americans
  - Japanese Americans
  - Filipino Americans
  - South Asian American - Sikh
  - South Asian American – Hindu
  - South Asian American – Muslim
  - Other (with my approval)

- **Final Project** 40%
  The final project is a group effort. Around the time of the midterm, we will divide the class up into working groups of three students.
  Conflict concerning race, ethnicity, gender, class, and other dimensions of diversity has been a central theme throughout the term. For the final project, you are asked to highlight a conflict that has informed Asian American religious life. Your project (installation, collage, web site, etc.) should present this conflict in a multi-faceted way and draw from Asian American historical, religious, and cultural sources.
POLICIES

• Academic Dishonesty
  At USC, academic dishonesty includes: “plagiarism, cheating on exams, unauthorized collaboration, and falsifying academic records.” In AMST 202, I have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards such acts. Any student caught engaging in any of these behaviors will be reported to the Office for Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards; and will receive an automatic “Fail” for the course. For more information on what constitutes academic dishonesty and USC’s ethical standard, see: Trojan Integrity: A Guide to Understanding and Avoiding Academic Dishonesty; and Trojan Integrity: A Guide for Avoiding Plagiarism. Both documents can be downloaded at <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/acadresources.html>.

• Academic Accommodations
  Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSPO. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSPO is 213-740-0776 <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/asn/dsp/index.htm>.

• Student Athletes
  Please let me know your student athlete status as early in the semester as possible. If you are going to miss a class, assignment, or exam due to your participation in a USC athletic event, you must procure an authorized absence letter from either your SAAS academic counselor or similar personnel. As stated on the “Student-Athlete Academic Services” website: “Excused absence letters do not excuse student-athletes from any homework, quiz, exam, etc. that is missed while participating in a University-sponsored athletic event. Student-athletes are still responsible for making up any work that is missed due to traveling. Only those student-athletes listed on the excuse letter are excused from missing class.” <http://www.usc.edu/dept/athletics/saas/students/academic/services/>

• Stress
  Students are under pressure. If you feel overwhelmed, contact the USC Student Counseling Services office at 213-740-7711. This free service is confidential. <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/Health_Center/cs.index.shtml>
Week One • Introduction

David K. Yoo, "Introduction" (R)
Timothy Tseng, "Beyond Orientalism and Assimilation: The Asian American as Historical Subject" ©
Jane Naomi Iwamura, “Asian American Religions” (RTS)

Week Two • "The Heathen Chinee" and Its Legacy

Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 (T)
"Chinese Religions" (H)
Fei Xiaotong, "The Shallowness of Cultural Tradition" (R)
Frederick J. Masters, “Pagan Temples in San Francisco” (R)
Frank Chin, "Come All Ye Asian American Writers of the Real and the Fake" (R)
Maxine Hong Kingston, "Personal Statement" (R)

Week Three • Early Asian Immigrants and the "Assurance" of Christian Faith

Chapter 7 (T)
Mary Paik Lee, Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America

Week Four • Asian American Spiritual Visionaries

Chapter 9 (T)
Steffi San Buenaventura, "Filipino Folk Spirituality and Immigration: From Mutual Aid to Religion" (nsh)
Lori A. Pierce, "Democracy According to the Buddhist Viewpoint: American Buddhism and Buddhist Americanism" (R)

(R) = Reader
(T) = Takaki, Strangers from a Different Shore
(RTS) = Revealing the Sacred
(H) = Hinnells, A New Handbook of Living Religions
Week Five • Japanese American Internment: Religion and Social Trauma

"The Myth of 'Military Necessity'" (T 379-405)
"Buddhism" (H)
Gary Y. Okihiro, "Religion and Resistance in America's Concentration Camps" (R)
Nyogen Senzaki, "Like a Dream, Like A Fantasy" (R)
Peter Yuichi Clark, "Compassion among Aging Nisei Japanese Americans" (RTS)

Field Trip: Chinese Memorial Shrine (Evergreen Cemetery)

Week Six

Midterm Timeline Project

Week Seven • Sikhs and the Challenge to Practice

Chapter 8 and Chapter 11 (T)
"Sikhism" (H)
"South Asian Religions in the United States" (H)
Jaideep Singh, "The Racialization of Minoritized Religious Identity" (RTS)
Vinay Lal, "Sikh Kirpans in California Schools" (NSH)

Film: Turbans

Week Eight • How the Other Half Lives: Religion and Social Class in Asian America

Sheba George, "Caroling with the Keralites: The Negotiation of Gendered Space in an Indian Immigrant Church" (R)

Film: Blue Collar and Buddha

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**Week Nine • "Becoming American by Becoming Hindu": Transformed Traditions**

"Hinduism" (H)

Prema Kurien, "Becoming American by Becoming Hindu: Indian Americans Take Their Place at the Multicultural Table" (R)

Shampa and Sanjoy Mazumdar, "Creating the Sacred: Altars in the Hindu American Home" (RTS)

**Week Ten • "Becoming American by Becoming Hindu": Transformed Identities**

Himanee Gupta, Staking a Claim on American-ness: Hindu Temples in the United States" (RTS)

Vijay Prashad, "Of Yankee Hindutva" (R)

**Film: Monsoon Wedding**

**Week Eleven • Pacific Islanders vs. the U.S.: Hawaiian Sovereignty**

Elizabeth Buck, "Transformations in Ideological Representations" (R)

Davianna Pomaikai McGregor, "Pele vs. Geothermal: A Clash of Cultures" (R)

**Film: Act of War: The Overthrow of the Hawai’ian Nation**

**Week Twelve • "Following Jesus" Asian American Style**

Russell Jeung, "New Asian American Churches and Symbolic Racial Identity" (R)

Rudy V. Busto, "The Gospel According to the Model Minority?" (NSH)

Janelle Wong, with Jane Naomi Iwamura, "The Moral Minority: Race, Religion, and Conservative Politics in Asian America"
Week Thirteen

[catch-up day]

Week Fourteen

trial-run presentations + feedback

Week Fifteen • Asian Americans & Contemporary Spiritual Invention

Leroy Leng Lim, *The Gay Erotics of My Stuttering Mother Tongue* (r)
Teresa Hak Kyung Cha, *Dictee [excerpt]* (r)
Bruce Lee, *Jeet Kune Do: Origins and Developments* (r)

Finals Week

[date|time]

Project Presentations

Photo Credits

Top Page

Week One
Photographer: Ken Kwok, http://www-scf.usc.edu/~davidlop/site/

Week Two

Week Three

Week Four

Week Five

Week Seven

Week Eight

Week Nine
"The goddess Kali and the teacher Sri Chinmoy are featured in an India Day Parade float, New York." (Slide 157), The Pluralism Project, Harvard University, http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~pluralism/

Week Ten

Week Eleven

Week Twelve
Logo, Asian American Christian Fellowship (AACF), http://www.aacf.org/

Week Fifteen
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