University Studies
Cluster Course Addition
Adding a Previously Unapproved Course to a Cluster

Proposing Faculty: Marie Lo, English

1. The Course
   a. ENG 305U: Topics in Film: Asian American Film and Video
      Catalog description: study of film as text, including genre, auteur, formal, historical, and cultural perspectives. For example, film noir, the western, famous directors, critical approaches to cinema, and others.
   b. This course is a new course under development.
   c. This course will be offered yearly.
   d. Prerequisites: none

2. Course Outline:
   See below.
   Professor committed to teaching this course: Marie Lo

3. General Education Goals:

   A. Course Content and Suitability for American Studies Cluster

   The study of Asian American film requires that it be examined and understood within the social historical context in which it is produced, disseminated and viewed. In other words, the study of Asian American film requires an interdisciplinary approach—one that takes into account the history of Asian American immigration, the social and cultural evolution of the different ethnic communities and the political landscape that shaped Asian American identities—in order to understand the diversity of Asian American experiences and filmic expressions. Ultimately, in showing students how Asian American film fits within the spectrum of immigrant experiences in the United States, this course encourages students to rethink the boundaries of what constitutes “American” in American Studies.

   B. University Studies Goals

   The interdisciplinary nature of this course implies the interconnection between the various University Studies Goals. This course teaches students a variety of modes of inquiry—through close textual analysis, interpretive question assignments, book reviews, annotated bibliography, oral presentations. These modes of inquiry, which help students develop their critical thinking skills, are inextricably linked with their development in the various modes of communication. The writing intensive aspects of this course allow students to develop their writing through different formats, such as book reviews, critical essays, and short responses. Through group presentations, students are given opportunities to collaborate and develop their oral
communications skills. The course also involves film screenings, which enable students to also develop their abilities to analyze visual texts as well as conceptualize and communicate their observations on this medium. Because of the subject matter, students will hopefully learn to appreciate the diversity of human experience and to contextualize their own experiences within the complexity of race, class, gender and sexuality. Hopefully, through understanding and situating their own experiences in the broader context of American Studies, students will be able to critically think about their own values, choices and ideas and their social and ethical responsibilities.

C. Classroom Environment
A variety of teaching strategies are employed to address and encourage different learning styles. To promote active learning, there are structured small group discussions as well as large class discussions. To provide multiple sites for dialogue and exchange of ideas, students write weekly viewing journals where they are free to explore whatever interests them about the readings or film screenings. These journals also give students opportunities to articulate and refine ideas in writing as well as provide a safe space to explore ideas. These assignments are not graded, but instructor provides feedback and comments. Furthermore, this class also employs WebCT to give students another venue for discussions. Also, there are lectures to help contextualize some of the screenings and to explain and supplement the readings.
Course Outline for ENG 305U

Asian American Film and Video

Given the invisibility of Asian Americans in the national imaginary, and more specifically in film, how do Asian American filmmakers respond to that invisibility? In this introduction to Asian American film and video, we will examine documentaries, feature films, and experimental videos to explore how these filmmakers articulate an Asian American cultural history and identity.

Required Texts:

Xing, Jun. Asian America Through the Lens: History, Representations and Identity. Additional readings on WebCT

Films and Video (subject to change)

## Schedule

This schedule is based on the availability of films and videos and therefore is subject to change. All readings with the symbol ▲ can be found on WebCT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>What Is “Asian American Film”?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9/27</td>
<td><strong>Screening:</strong> <em>My America...(Or, Honk if You Love Buddha)</em></td>
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| Thursday 9/29 | **Reading:** *Asian America Through the Lens* pp. 13-52  
“Is There an Asian American Aesthetics?” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal One Due |

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<th>Week 2</th>
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| Tuesday 10/4 | **Screening:** *Picturing Oriental Girls: A (Re)Educational Videotape*  
**Reading:** *Asian America Through the Lens* pp. 53-86  
“Moving the Image” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Two Due |

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<tr>
<th>Documenting Invisible Histories</th>
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| Thursday 10/6 | **Screening:** *Ancestors: Coolies, Sailors, Settlers in the Americas*  
**Reading:** *Asian America Through the Lens* pp. 87-115 |

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<th>Week 3</th>
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| Tuesday 10/11 | **Screening:** *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*  
**Reading:** “Historical Consciousness and the Viewer” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Three Due |
| Thursday 10/13 | **Screening:** *History and Memory*  
**Reading:** “Articulating Silence” ▲ |

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<th>Week 4</th>
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| Tuesday 10/18 | **Screening:** *Bontoc Eulogy*  
**Reading:** “The Camera as Microscope” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Four Due |
| Thursday 10/20 | **Screening:** *a.k.a. Don Bonus*  
**Reading:** “Introduction: Locating Asian American Cinema” ▲ |

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<th>Week 5</th>
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| Tuesday 10/25 | **Screening:** *Dirty Laundry*  
**Reading:** “Looking for My Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Porn” ▲  
“Still Looking: Negotiating Race, Sex, and History” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Five Due |

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<tr>
<th>Negotiating Identities</th>
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| Thursday 10/27 | **Screening:** *Chan is Missing*  
**Assignment:** Mid-term Paper Due |
| Tuesday 11/1 | **Reading:** “Becoming Chinese American, Becoming Asian American” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Six Due |
| Thursday 11/3 | **Reading:** *Asian America Through the Lens*, pp. 125-156 |

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<th>Week 7</th>
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| Tuesday 11/8 | **Screening:** *Miss India Georgia*  
**D. Reading:** “Community Beauty: Transnational Performances” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Seven Due |
| Thursday 11/10 | **Screening:** *Sally’s Beauty Spot*  
Two Lies  
**Reading:** “Letter to My Sister” ▲ |

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<th>Week 8</th>
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| E. Tuesday 11/15 | **Screening:** *Another America*  
**Reading:** “America’s First Multietnic ‘Riots’” ▲  
**Assignment:** Journal Eight Due |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/17</td>
<td>Screening: <em>Mississippi Masala</em></td>
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<td>Reading: &quot;Emigrants Twice Displaced&quot; ▲</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>New Directions?</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11/22</td>
<td><em>Better Luck Tomorrow</em></td>
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<td>Thursday 11/24</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY-NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Tuesday 11/29</td>
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<td>Reading: &quot;The Model Minority&quot; ▲</td>
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<td>Assignment: <em>Journal Eight Due</em></td>
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<td>Thursday 12/1</td>
<td>Screening: <em>Robot Stories</em></td>
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<td>Monday 12/5</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
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