ENGL 02 475-1 (CRN 23419)

Special Topics in Global Lit: Asian American Lit



This class will consider the many histories and experiences that shape Asian America—including Chinese immigration in the 1850s; Japanese internment during WWII; Vietnamese refugees in the second half of the 20th century; and the emergence of the model minority myth.



The field of Asian American Studies is marked by "heterogeneity, hybridity, and multiplicity" (Lisa Lowe). This "multiplicity" necessitates an interdisciplinary approach in order to work through questions of identity, national belonging, and representation. Through history, literature, graphic narratives, photography, and films, we will examine dominant characterizations of Asian immigrants and Asian Americans alongside the works of authors and other cultural producers who challenge these notions. Racial formation, immigration, citizenship,

transnationalism, gender, class, and war will serve as initial themes for the course.

Texts might include:

- Frank Norris, "The Third Circle"
- Jack London, "The Unparalleled Invasion"
- Sui Sin Far, short stories
- Angel Island poetry
- Gene Luen Yang, American Born Chinese
- Hisaye Yamamoto, "The Legend of Miss Sasagawara"
- John Okada, No-No Boy
- Nora Okja Keller, *Comfort Woman*
- Viet Thanh Nguyen, short stories
- Aimee Phan, short stories
- G. B. Tran, Vietnamerica
- Celeste Ng, Everything I Never Told You
- Jhumpa Lahiri, short stories
- The Namesake
- The First Monday in May

